The Shakerite

December 5, 2001 • Volume 72 • Issue 3 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

take a PEEK

What a trip!

6 Rob details the debauchery at Kenyon College, **Opinion**.

Students on sex

8 Two juniors debate the double standard, **Centerpiece**.

What the muggles say

12 Students assess whether Harry Potter, the film, lived up to its hype, **A&E**.

16 **Dedicated to his team**

Coach Ernest Welsch is the force behind Shaker swimming, ***Sports***.

better your BAGEL

Want to spice up all those bagels you bought from Mr. Slawson and forgot to eat? Why not try this festive idea for a sweet holiday treat? These delicious and nutritious recipe will get your taste buds jumping!

Here's what you will need:

- One plain or chocolate chip bagel
- Nutella spread
- Miniature marshmallows, toasted chopped walnuts or pecans, and M&Ms.

Now, slice the bagel open and spread each side with a layer of nutella. Then decorate with toppings and enjoy!

If you are looking for a more upscale treat, try this curried cream cheese spread.

- 1(8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons curry powder
- 1/3 cup golden raisins

Beat together cream cheese and cream until light and fluffy. Add remaining ingredients and mix until combined.

There will be enough for about six servings, so share with your friends and family!

Compiled by Will Bostwick from the "Totally Bagel Cookbook" by Helene Siegel

This was not a drill: smoke billows from school

Lindsay Kocab/**The Shakerite**

Once the fire was extinguished, firefighters dragged the netting out of the building.

• Clean-up in costume cages goes awry as netting ignites; no injuries

By Meryl Kramer
Co-editor in chief

When senior Eric Watson saw fire billowing from the large auditorium vents Nov. 13, he knew it wasn't Shaker's monthly rehearsal.

"At first I thought it was a drill," Watson said. "Then I saw the smoke and I was surprised because I never thought there'd be a fire at the school."

Fellow senior Katie Durrin reached a similar conclusion.

"I figured it wasn't a drill because there was only five minutes left in the period. I figured someone had just pulled the alarm," she said.

But contrary to Durrin and Watson's initial impressions, the alarm was neither a prank nor a drill.

The fire originated near Stage Three. No one was injured and the damage was minor.

"Maintenance did an excellent job of extinguishing the fire. It was a small fire caused by poor judgment by a student," said Assistant Chief Don Barnes of the Shaker Heights Fire Department.

On Nov. 13 two Stagecraft II students were cleaning up the costume cages near the stage when they ran into some tangled nets. According to freshman Charles "Jus-

SEE FIRE, PAGE 4

Singing praises!

• Gospel Choir rejoices in new beginning

By Anna Hutt
Staff Reporter

Gathering among the cafeteria tables after school, they face a portable keyboard, holding no printed music. Their motivation is not high school credit or a wage of any sort, and their presence has caused controversy within the high school.

Yet when they open their mouths to sing, the sound that fills the area is one of unity, emotion, and soul. They are Shaker's Gospel Choir, prepared to overcome the obstacles that are sure to arise before the club this year.

"Nothing good comes without a price," said senior Justin Priest, the Choir's cofounder and president.

In their first year, 2000-2001, the gospel choir was forced to deal with numerous issues including the resignation of their student musical director and the opposition of other students and faculty to a religious choir in school. Despite last year's bumpy road, Priest is energetic and optimistic about the singers' future. "If you start something and give up when it gets tough, you're not doing your job," he said.

The Gospel Choir, open to any students who wish to try out, meets after school weekly to learn spiritual and contemporary music, predominantly from the African-American culture. The Choir performs in churches and other schools around Cleveland, or at assemblies as requested by the high school administration. Already this year, the choir has seven offers to perform, including ones from Wooster College, The Shaker Martin Luther King Festival and Brush High School.

"Last year, we even performed at Lee and Harvard Baptist Church, and we went to a song festival at Cleveland Heights High School," said junior Cherie McElroy, last year's assistant director.

The voices of approximately 35 students, mostly African-American, blended on Nov 1, at the group's second meeting, with the bluesy tones of junior Brandon McCafferty's keyboard and senior Matt Lesueur's saxophone. Junior

SEE CHOIR, PAGE 13

Simona Karasik/**The Shakerite**

Simona Karasik/**The Shakerite**

Senior Matt Lesueur plays the saxophone with the Gospel Choir at the group's second meeting on Nov. 1 (above) . Several group members sing and clap at the same gathering (right). The Choir has already received seven offers to perform this year.

Webb and Elliott put the competition on ice

Courtesy of Rob Reiners/ Digital Sportshots

Ann Elliott gets her game face on in a Cleveland Flames hockey game. The women's team travels around the country to compete.

By Katherine Ekeberg
Sports Co-editor

out of BOUNDS

How far does a girl have to go to play hockey? For Ann Elliott and Amanda Webb, 11 states, 2 countries and approximately 3,454 miles.

Both Elliott and Webb are members of the Ohio Flames, an all-girls hockey team in the area. The Flames comprise 16 girls from Ohio and Pennsylvania who practice at Kent State for an hour and 15 minutes every Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday. The team plays in an under-19 division in a league out of Chicago with teams as far away as California, Canada and Michigan.

The Flames have qualified for the national tournament for the past three years. Last season they ranked fifth in the nation and lost in the national quarterfinals to their rivals Shaddock-St. Mary's, a school in Minnesota.

According to Webb, they again have a definite shot at nationals. The Connecticut Polar Bear tournament, their biggest tournament of the season, will be a good indicator of how well they will do at nationals.

The atmosphere of the team is different than that of a high school squad. Because they don't go to school together, players really bond at practice and tournaments, according to Webb. They spend most weekends together and often have team sleepovers.

"It's amazing how you get this group of people together . . . we're really close. By not being in school with them it's like we value the time we spend together more," Webb said.

Webb is playing her ninth season of hockey and her sixth season with the Flames. She first learned to skate at Thornton by doing figure skating, but wanted to play hockey after her brother

SEE HOCKEY, PAGE 15

PAGE 2

Come to the Shakerite open critique session

The Shakerite will hold its monthly critique and planning session after school in room 231 on Dec. 5. This is an opportunity for your voice and suggestions to be heard and to add input to the production and content of this paper. Be there.

Local councilman says bag the sag or flash some cash

By Will Wemer
News Editor

Attention all baggy pants-wearers: your sagging days may soon be over if an East Cleveland councilman gets his way.

Councilman Nathaniel Martin has proposed a new bill in East Cleveland that would prohibit men from wearing their pants too low.

Martin's move came after the nonprofit organization Black on Black 2000 expressed its concern about young men's backsides being exposed.

"If the pants go below the anal area, it's considered offensive," Martin said.

The bill would give East Cleveland police officers the right to stop a man and charge him for having excessively low pants.

If passed, an offender would have to whip a pretty penny out of his sagging trousers. Martin's proposed discipline would include a warning for first offenses, a $25 fine for second offenses and a $50 fine for third offenses.

Police officers would have the authority to discern whether the wearer was in violation of the no-sag rule.

According to Martin, the bill has support in East Cleveland. However, a saggy pants law does not seem likely to surface in the halls of Shaker.

Assistant Principal Reginald Blue said that though the saggy pants look is not one he endorses, he does not think that the proposed law is a good idea.

"I would hope police would have something else better to do than taking on the role of fashion police," Blue said.

Sophomore Nikki Goddard hopes that city council won't consider bringing this idea to Shaker. "I don't think our city needs a dress code," she said.

Sophomore Chris Chin agrees and believes that the proposed bill is ludicrous.

"There's nothing wrong with the way guys wear their pants," Chin said.

"It doesn't affect anyone else."

The bill, which is expected to go through the East Cleveland City Council in several weeks, has a shaky foundation due to the difficulty of enforcing a citywide dress code.

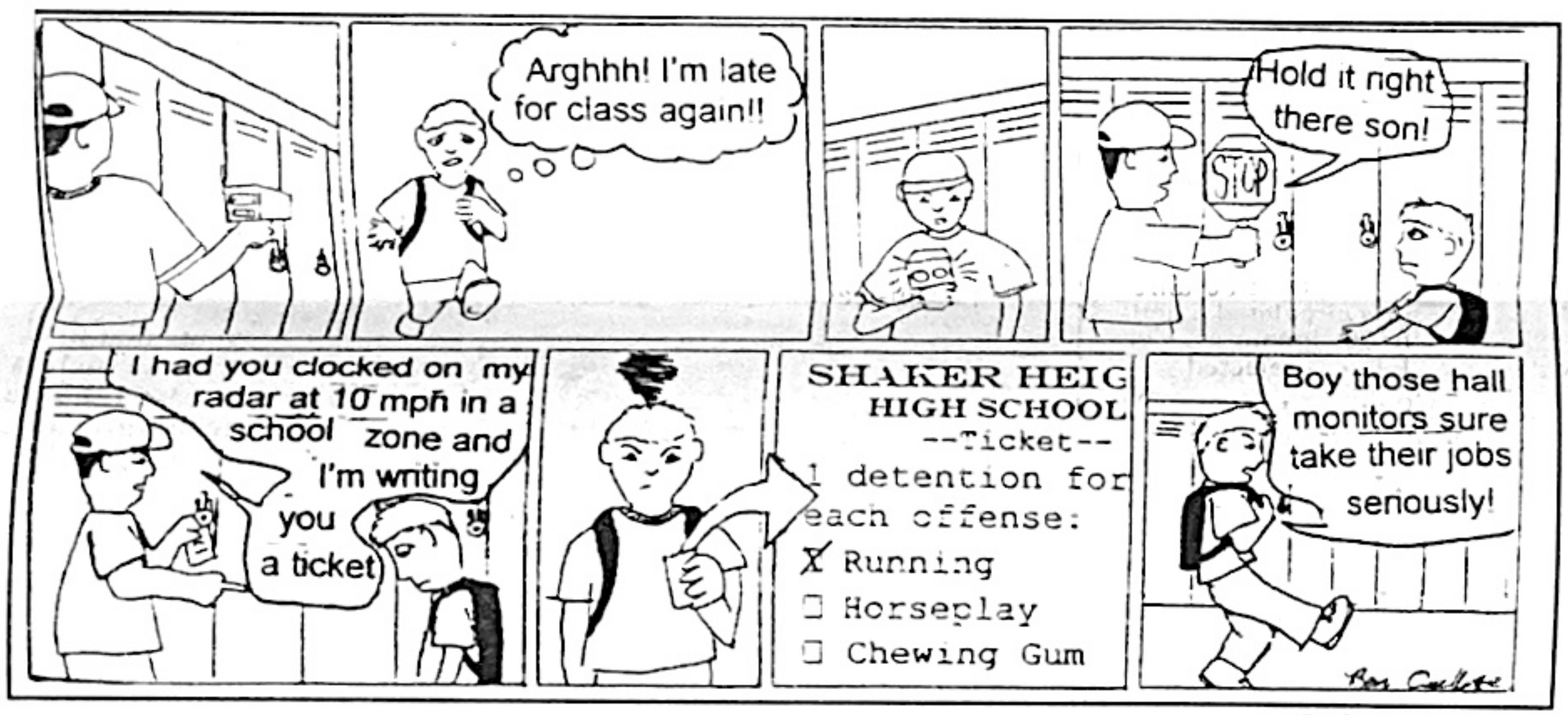
Even if the bill does not pass, Martin has one simple tip for all men who wear saggy pants.

"If your pants are at your ankles, they are too low," Martin said.

> **"I would hope police would have something else better to do than taking on the role of fashion police."**
>
> Reginald Blue
> Assistant Principal

Cliff Harding/The Shakerite

Michael Bonner, right, with Michael Harris and Loresha Britton, sports saggy pants that could be in violation of the proposed law.


Arghhh! I'm late for class again!!
Hold it right there son!
STOP
I had you clocked on my radar at 10 mph in a school zone and I'm writing you a ticket
SHAKER HEIG
HIGH SCHOOL
--Ticket--
1 detention for each offense:
☒ Running
☐ Horseplay
☐ Chewing Gum
Boy those hall monitors sure take their jobs seriously!
Ben Ouellette

Ben Ouellette/The Shakerite

Corrections

•In the Oct. 31 issue of The Shakerite, Mike Bell was misidentified as Nelson Devezin.

•In the Oct. 31 issue of The Shakerite, Kyan Safavi's name was misspelled in the byline of his story. Also the first sentence of his article, which was written in Arabic, was omitted due to production errors.

•In the Oct. 31 issue of The Shakerite, Astrid Matthews' name was misspelled.

the club SCENE

Ski Club: Rod MacLeod, adviser
The Ski Club will be traveling to Boston Mills on Fridays during January and February. Those interested in skiing or snowboarding at any skill level are encouraged to join. Information and sign-up material is available from MacLeod in room 178-F.

National Spanish Honors Society: Norma Guice, adviser
Inter-school tutoring is continuing, and a party at a Mexican restaurant will be planned in the near future.

Take Action: John Addison, adviser
Tutoring second through fourth grade students at several elementary schools initially began Nov. 7. More mentors are needed for the Mercer and Fernway sections of the program.

Latin Club: Jane Ulrich, adviser
The Latin Club raised $154.93 for the homeless shelter and will announce the date of the Pizza and a Movie activity on the board outside room 221.

Outdoors Club: Karen Schaefer, co-president
Meetings are Wed. after school in room 172, where a rock climbing trip will be planned.

***Mano en Mano**: Norma Guice and Robert Weaver, advisers*
Mano en Mano is teaching English as a second language to sixth and seventh graders from Luis Munoz Marin School under leadership of teacher Mrs. Salinas. Tutoring for proficiency testing is underway at the Hispanic Youth Center for Hispanic high school students. Mano en Mano and the Spanish National Honors Society are jointly sponsoring a teacher-student dance group performing at the first City of Shaker Heights Diversity Celebration on Dec. 12. The group is led by Carlos Sanchez Rodriguez, a Cuban-born custodian at the high school. The group will present "La Rueda" dance ("The Wheel"), popular in dance clubs throughout the United States.

Compiled by Francesca Klein

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Bye-bye proficiency test!

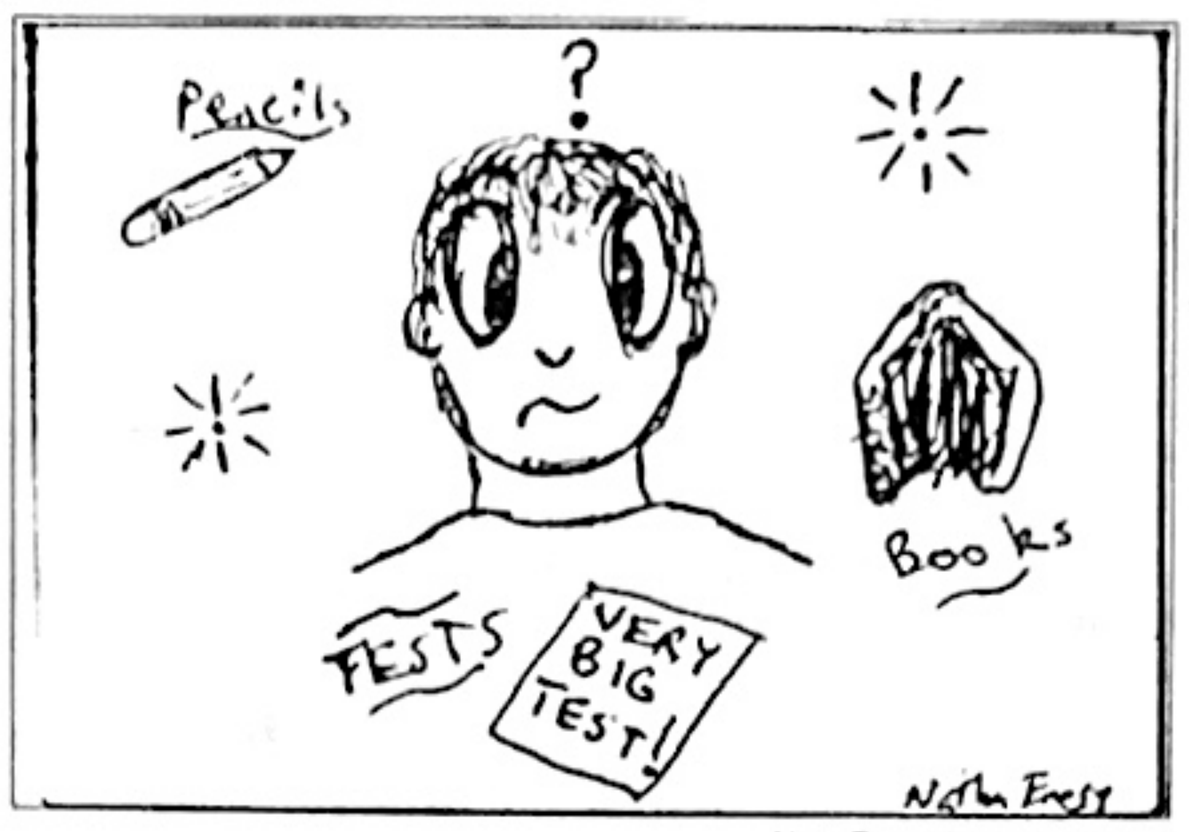
• Well, not exactly. Curriculum to change as 10th-grade exam nears

By Anna Hutt
Staff Reporter

Younger students at Shaker can forget about stability and order when it comes to history and English classes in the next few years. More than likely, they are destined to endure one or two tumultuous semesters of curriculum changes due to the Ohio State Department of Education's new testing policies and the addition of a new course to the social studies curriculum.

State law currently mandates that students pass a ninth grade proficiency test before graduation. The test is administered first in eighth grade and then every year thereafter until a student passes. Recently, however, the Ohio Department of Education mandated a change in the process. Beginning with the class of 2007 (currently in 7th grade), students will need to pass an Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), administered in 10th grade, in place of all proficiency testing. This year's seniors will be the first class to be exempt from taking 12th grade proficiencies.

The classes of 2005 and 2006, stuck in the transition period, will be required to pass the current ninth grade proficiencies to receive an Ohio diploma but will also have to take the reading and mathematics sections of the OGT test, not for graduation requirements but to comply with federal Title I policies. A final decision on the content of the OGT will be reached as late as December 2002.



Nate Emery/The Shakerite

Shaker will most likely need to reorganize its curriculum in order to make sure that tenth graders are prepared to pass the OGT.

The OGT will require students to have knowledge of U.S. history, which most Shaker students do not study until eleventh grade. As a result, Shaker students would have a reduced chance of performing well on the exam.

"In my opinion, everything is going to have to change," history teacher Sarah Davis said. "The way it looks now, every single tenth and eleventh grade history class would change, at minimum." She explained that all of the social studies courses now offered to sophomores — including comparative economics, African American history, sociology and modern European history — would have to be replaced by U.S. history so that students would be prepared for the OGT.

The English curriculum would need to change as well. Eleventh grade English typically focuses on American literature to coincide with juniors' studies in their U.S. history course. If the curriculum switch were carried out, however, the American literature curriculum would have to be revised to accommodate younger readers.

English department passes on AP World History course

By Anna Hutt
Staff Reporter

If Sarah Davis gets her way, Shaker will have another AP class next year.

Davis, a social studies teacher at Shaker, set forth a proposal to the social studies and English departments, suggesting that Shaker add AP World History to their curriculum.

Davis suggested that the course be a team-taught English and social studies course, offered to tenth graders by the two departments next year. The existing American experience course for juniors at the high school has a similar format.

"It's essentially marrying a required English course to a social studies elective," said social studies department chair Timothy Mitchell.

The students in the course would have one period with the English instructor and another period with the history instructor each day, but the curriculum of the two courses would mirror each other.

Senior Julia Abrams believes that the American Experience class she took a year ago was a positive experience.

"[Team-teaching] was a really good idea, and it was easier to learn the information when we were learning about the same thing in both classes," the senior said.

Davis expounded upon the benefits of this type of joint teaching. "It's using history as needed to give background information for the piece of literature being studied in English," she said.

"It reinforces that habit of mind, training you to think a certain way, comparing and combining."

While the social studies department approved the new course for tenth graders the majority of the English department wasn't enthusiastic over the idea of team teaching the AP World History.

"The history department is trying very hard to change and accommodate the state [and its new policies]," English teacher Paul Springstubb said. "The English department feels that we don't need to be making all of these changes."

After a second meeting, the English department resolved not to approve the team-taught course for 2002-2003.

"There's a lot of changes going on now," said English department Chair Jon Bender. "[AP World History] is just not going to happen as an English course next year."

Though he was hopeful that the course would be put into action next year, Mitchell expressed understanding towards the possibility of rejection even before it was made official. "[The English department] has some legitimate concerns," he said. "Both the English and social studies teachers need to decide whether [the AP World History course] meets the requirements for a tenth grade student."

> **"[AP World History] is just not going to happen as an English course next year."**
>
> Jon Bender
> English department head

The possibility of teaching the AP World History as solely a social studies class must now go back into the social studies department for discussion.

Davis commented that, especially considering the tragedy of Sept. 11 and the events that have transpired as a result, such a world history course would be a significant and meaningful one for sophomores in order to increase global understanding.

"In light of recent events, considering the war we're in now, I think it's important for students to learn about cultures all over the world," Davis said.

According to the AP College Board's web page, "The purpose of the AP World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contact in interaction...of human societies."

The course highlights "the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences."

news in the NATION

CANTON

Gay/straight alliance denied

Kate Lab and Eli Pittman, students at Canton's GlenOak High School, have been pushing to form a Gay/Straight Alliance club, but Principal Mark Hartman has denied the girls approval to form the club twice. Hartman believes that a club cannot be formed unless all students could feel comfortable joining it.

"Kids need to feel comfortable joining. As you know, we have a diverse student body," Hartman told the Glen Oak Eagle, the school's student newspaper.

According to the Eagle, GlenOak junior Cliff Stanley would not join such a club. "It just seems too weird. I'm not trying to be mean or anything, just honest," Stanley said.

To show that not everyone would be unreceptive to the alliance, the girls circulated a petition, and collected more than100 signatures. Yet, even with the petition, the club was rejected.

If formed, the club would join other gay/straight alliance clubs at high schools in Northeast Ohio, including ones in North Olmstead and Shaker.

Pittman feels that the club is needed to promote tolerance at GlenOak.

"We need to help people understand gays/bi-sexuals before they hate them," she tod the Eagle.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Parent complaint sidelines dance team

Cleveland Heights High School's drill team, which performs with the band at football games, had both their uniforms and their provocative dance moves banned by school administrator James Cipolletti.

The assistant principal banned the uniforms and the moves after parents complained to the school about the team's suggestive performance at the Sept. 14 game.

The drill team was not permitted to perform until new uniforms, which were school-bought black and gold warm-up suits, arrived at the school.

The uniforms did not arrive until November, after the football season had ended, so the team did not perform during most of the season.

According to Black and Gold adviser, Tim Scasny, there were no previous problems with the dress and moves of the drill team and the administration took notice due to parent complainants.

The school administration offered the team chances to perform at basketball games, but the team has not accepted yet.

Drill team adviser Saundra Dixon did not believe the school should have banned her team from the football games this season.

"The routine wasn't different from past years and I didn't see it objectionable," Dixon told the Black and Gold student newspaper.

GUILDERLAND, NEW YORK

When soccer jocks meet Hooters . . .

For the Guilderland Center High School boys' soccer team, weekly team dinners consist of burgers, beverages and boobs.

Every Tuesday, the New York team hangs out at the local Hooters, to participate in the Trivial Tuesday contest, the restaurant's weekly trivia competition. The group takes on other men from the Albany area for the supreme title "The week's smartest group of male chauvinists."

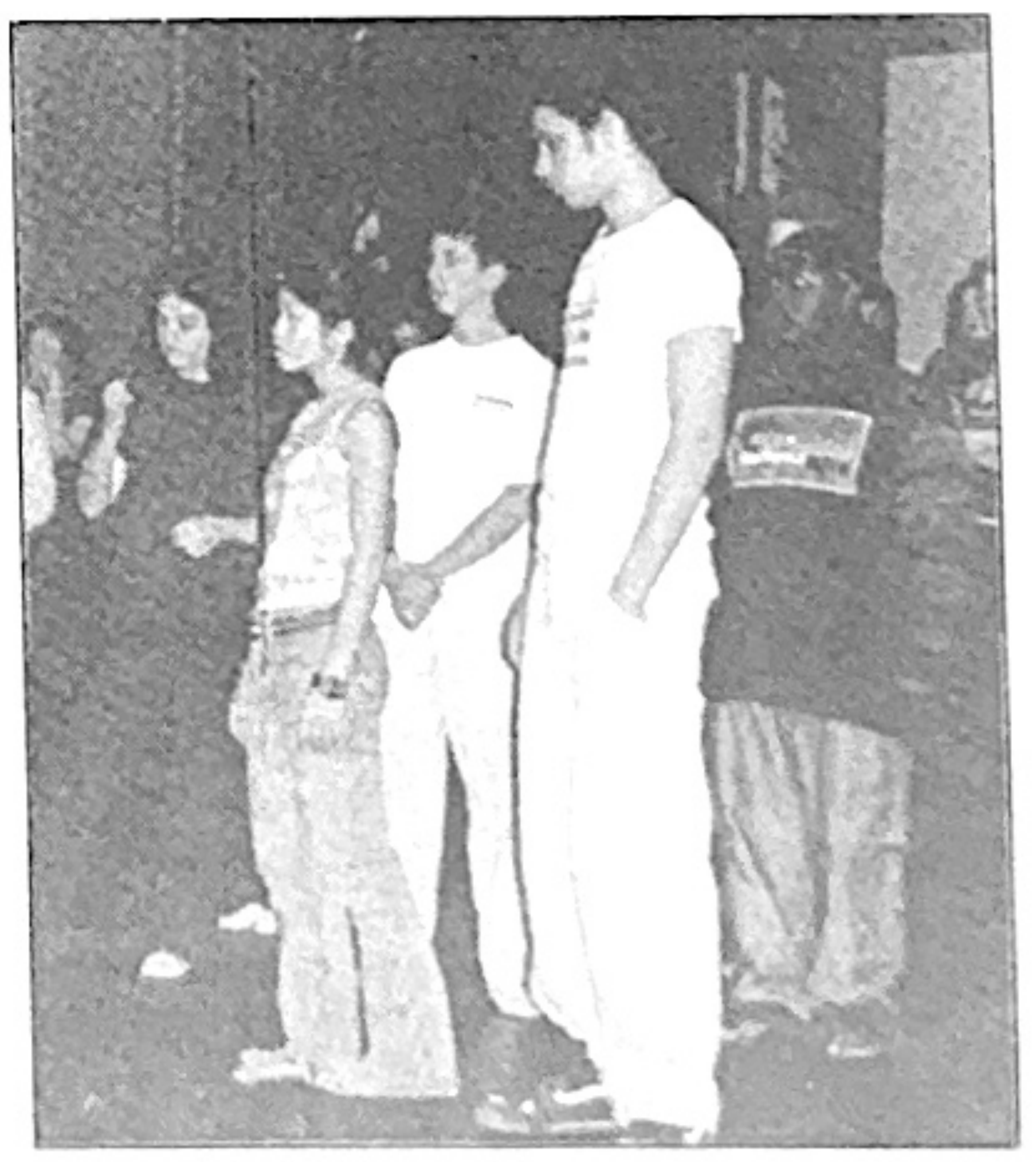
The team also chooses who they believe was the team's player of the week, and awards them the golden "butt-kicker" award. The team can be seen attempting to get waitresses' numbers as the tank-topped servers bring the team their food, while wearing in-line skates.

Though the focus may seem to be on sex, the soccer players take Trivial Tuesday very seriously. After loosing one week, senior Mike Norris was seen with a tear running down his cheek.

"We... embarrassed ourselves in front of Desiree [our waitress]," Norris told The Journal of Guilderland High School.

Compiled by Will Werner

A DRAMATIC PAUSE



Sophomores Anna Abrams and Stephanie Fungsang, junior Nate Emery and senior Chris Delgado pause during a rehersal for "Romeo and Juliet." For more on the production, see Page 13

Simona Karasik/The Shakerite

Hey! You! Come to the Shakerite critique. (Please)

Recycling program trashed, again

By Alex Buder Shapiro
Staff Reporter

A trash can at Shaker overflows with an tree's worth of paper because there is no longer any way to recycle it. Seven shutdowns in seven years is not a good track record for a project, and yet the recycling sect of the Environmental Club keeps trying.

They want a Shaker Heights Public Works truck to come pick up ready-to-be-recycled trash.

The program's most recent shutdown came the day after elections, when Shaker City Councilman Al Foster, the program's council representative, lost his spot on council in the November election.

Will Bostwick/The Shakerite

"The day after the election, 8 a.m., we got a call. No more pickups," said Rob Sylak, adviser of the Environmental Club.

Foster helped set up the project after he attended an Environmental Club meeting. He called Shaker Heights Public Works and used his influence to convince them to stop by the high school and pick up their recyclables, including paper and cans.

When Foster heard that the program was discontinued, he was outraged.

"I am shocked and angry at this decision. I see no reason why the same truck that goes to Public Works can't also stop by the high school on its trip," Foster said.

According to the Shaker Heights Public Works, the program was shut down due to a $2 million shortage in the city budget.

Scott Rager, the Public Works official in charge of recycling, was unavailable for comment at the time of publication.

Sophomore Mitch Frank, a member of Environmental Club, was upset when he heard of the Public Works' decision and the reasoning behind the cut.

"I was disappointed that of all the programs they could have cut, they cut this one," Frank said.

Ben Sattin, a freshman who takes Journalism I, took the decision personally.

"We must use a quarter of the paper in this school, and now, none of it is going to be recycled," Sattin said.

The Shakerite placed a large cardboard box for recycled paper in its office in October.

Within a week, the box was nearly filled. Now used paper is thrown away.

Caitlin Corrigan, a sophomore, believes that the city's choice says something about people's priorities.

"Not recycling is damaging our ecological system and if we, as a community, can't even take a couple of minutes and dollars out of our lives to help save the environment . . . " Corrigan said.

Sylak and club members refuse to let the resolution get them down. They believe that recycling is too important to give up.

"This is just another setback, but we're used to it. We'll keep trying, I've lost count of how many times this is now," Sylak said.

• Fire in basement causes evacuation

FIRE FROM PAGE 1

tin" Nyilas, a Stagecraft II student, another student, who was not in the Stagecraft II class, was helping out with permission of teacher Joel Rathbone The student was assisting instead of attending her third period PE class.

Nyilas said the netting was actually a few nets jumbled together, and the PE student tried to separate them by singeing strands with her lighter.

The two used the lighter successfully four times, but on the fifth try the netting caught on fire. They tried to smother it with rugs and also by stomping on it. The PE student left the building when the alarm went off while Nyilas put a table on top of the netting, which temporarily stopped the fire, but the net re-ignited. Custodians put the fire out with fire extinguishers.

The fire was small and easily contained, according to Assistant Principal Ann Spurrier.

"Students were calm and efficient. I was impressed. The building was evacuated in under two minutes," Spurrier said, adding that it usually takes about three minutes to completely evacuate.

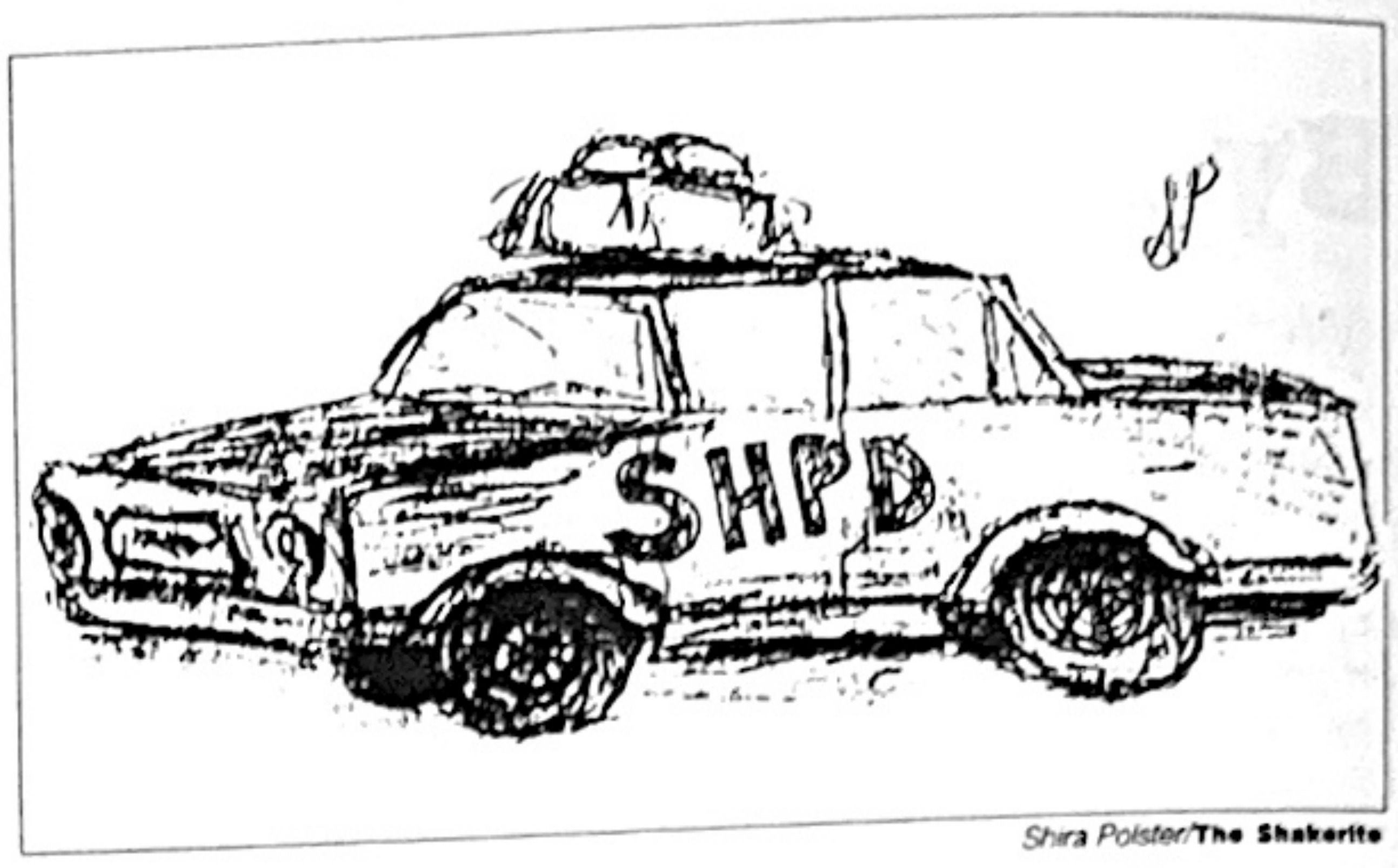
Barnes said that fire prevention specialist Devon Paullin came to Shaker after the incident to speak to the students involved about fire safety.

The PE student was disciplined for cutting class. The administration considers the fire an accident, and therefore Nyilas was not punished. Nyilas received compliments from Principal Mike Griffith for his bravery and quick action.

"I'm glad nobody was hurt," said auditorium manager Chuck Tisdale. "From what I understand it was a complete accident. There was nothing malicious about it."

The netting was old cloth used for scenic purposes, according to Tisdale. This particular piece of netting was bought and used before Tisdale came to Shaker five years ago. Its age made it particularly flammable.

Even though flame-proof materials are available for scenic purposes, Shaker has never bought any. Tisdale said, however, that materials bought in the future would be treated for flame resistance.



Shira Polster/The Shakerite

City takes precautions after Sept. 11 attacks

By Kelly Schaefer
Page 2 Editor

Suspicious white powder and police in biohazard suits do not just exist in the capital or New York City -- they are present in Shaker Heights. The police and fire departments have received several calls concerning suspected terrorism, specifically the possibility of anthrax, and trained officers wearing protective gear were deployed to each scene.

Though no threats were credible, Police Chief Walter Urginic assures residents that precautions will be taken for all possible threats.

> "Shaker would be the last place to get nuked."
>
> Eric Weiss
> sophomore

Sophomore Eric Weiss expressed skepticism over any real danger.

"Shaker would be the last place to get nuked. Hicksville would get nuked before us," Weiss said.

While some write off extensive caution, junior Tiffany Spearmon believes in the value of wariness.

"I think they should take everybody's mail before they distribute it out and run a test over all of it before someone finds that they have anthrax in it. Instead of waiting on us to get sick with it, it would be better if they checked it first," Spearmon said.

Prior to Sept. 11, the Shaker Police Department became a member of a domestic terrorist task force in partnership with the FBI.

"Obviously that participation has escalated because of the Sept. 11 attacks. We have had to further increase our training to cover some special things, things that we didn't deal with before," Urginic said.

Following the attacks, old procedures concerning terrorism-related events were revamped, including those regarding school evacuations.

Urginic also noted that much of the city's Jewish population was concerned about whether the terrorist attacks were a specific retaliation against their religion.

In response, the police and fire departments increased the number of officers and paramedics on duty during the Jewish holidays following Sept. 11, as well as on Halloween.

English teachers shuffle mid-semester

From staff reports

The sound of laughter used to fill the hallway outside of room 202 where English teacher Carole Kovach taught anatomy of writing.

Kovach, loved by her anatomy of writing as well as her freshman English students, has been sorely missed since she switched to teaching bridges English in the middle of the semester.

"I felt terrible when I found out," said senior Geoffrey Cross, who was in her fourth-fifth period anatomy of writing class. "She made English interesting and after she left I didn't want to go."

Kovach's switch was brought about by the departure of former Bridges teacher Karen Masem, who moved to North Carolina to enable her husband to take a job with Guilford County schools.

The Bridges program, which is a collaboration of math, English, science and social studies courses, needed to find a teacher to take Masem's place.

Among the interested candidates was Kovach, who was soon appointed to the position.

"I always wanted to be a part of [Bridges]. I like team teaching," Kovach said.

This left a problem, however. Kovach had to leave her current anatomy of writing classes at the end of the quarter.

Will Bostwick/The Shakerite

Charles Kelly took over for Carole Kovach mid-semester. Kovach now teaches Bridges English.

English teacher Charles Kelly was hired to take over the anatomy of writing and freshman English classes previously taught by Kovach. Kelly taught at Case Western Reserve University before coming to Shaker.

"The students and faculty have all been really welcoming. These last few weeks have been a great experience," said Kelly.

Although the transition has been a little rough for Kovach, she still finds it rewarding.

"I have loved it very much. It's completely different going from a senior writing class to four sections of ninth grade.

But now I can help these ninth graders become better writers and readers," Kovach said. "Now that we've settled into a routine," she added, "it's all good."

We are proud of Shaker's

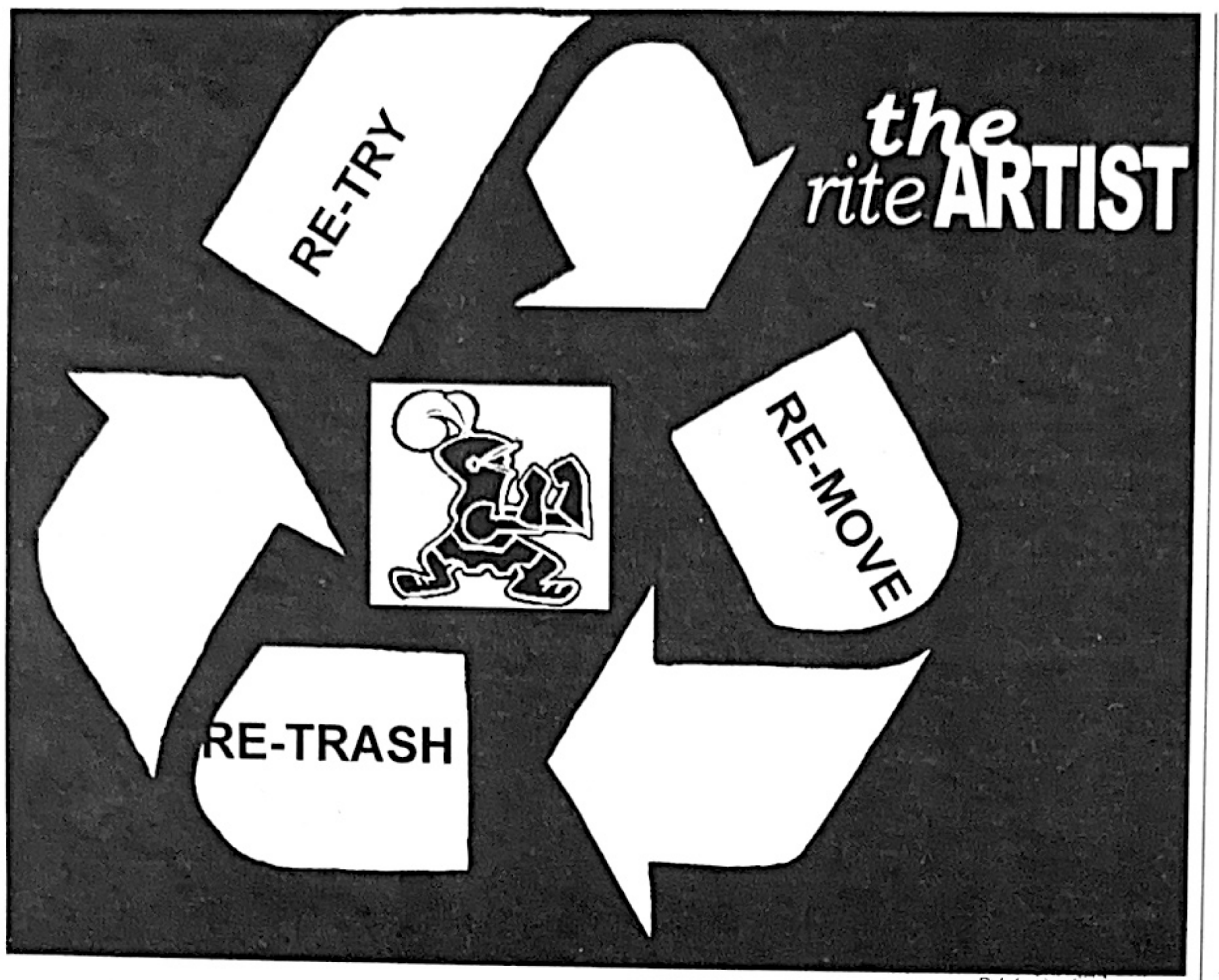
National Merit Semifinalists
Laura B. Barnes
Huaizhi Chen
Claire B. Dietrich
Kevin M. Gallagher
Nathan J. Hsu
Elliott C. Karr
Catherine E. Nosse
Seth E. Rosenberg
Duncan B. Sanford
Amy B. Schiller
Jonathan R. Siegel
David W. Simmons-Duffin
Roopa Vasudevan
Amanda L. Webb
Carolyn R. Wilson

National Achievement Commended Students
Krysten M. King-Decatur
Lydia C. Watts
Noah F. Williams

National Achievement Semifinalists
Liza J. Moody
Tiara C. Perry
Allison E. Waithe

National Merit Commended Students
Lesley R. DiFransico
Joseph C. Fungsang
Laura E. Goldberg
Mary F. Griffith
Andrew W. Kober
Alexandra Marcotty
Whitney A. Meredith
Matthew B. Ratner
Karen M. Schaefer
Matthew D. Smith
Sarah E. Spiegler
David J. Stone

Shaker Heights Teachers' Association SHTA



Rick Jennings/The Shakerite

letter to the EDITOR

Dear Shakerite,

One of the problems we hear about over and over again in Shaker is the racial difference between the makeup of CP and AP classes; CP classes are majority black and AP white. Why? Is it because some kids have parents who look over their shoulder every day of the week, set their bed times, and push them into AP? Then there is the influence of friends: if my friends all take CP, then that will be an influence.

But what most people don't even get around to discussing is what happened in Woodbury and the Middle School. At that early stage, students were not given a choice as to the level of difficulty of the courses they were involved in. From my perspective it was that point when the "lower level" students and the "higher level" students separated. What started at Woodbury was later developed at middle school and continues to be evident at the high school. When high school rolled around students in lower level courses were not prepared and would certainly be intimidated when entering an AP course. I myself tried to make the jump from CP to AP courses and I dropped back not for social reasons but for the fact that I was not prepared. Maybe administrative officials should look at the earlier years of a student's life in this district to determine why Shaker Heights School students are "choosing" AP or CP classes.

Jason Scudamore
senior

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the 'rite IDEA

Supervision required for students

A few weeks ago the school was evacuated during third period after a student unintentionally set a net ablaze near Stage Three.

The mistake could have had dire consequences - the student and others could have been hurt or killed. *The problem is not that the fire was started. More than 1,800 students attend this school, and accidents like this are bound to happen sometime.* The real issue is that the student responsible was skipping her third period class and thus was not supervised.

It is unrealistic to think that teachers can have their eyes on all students all the time. Teachers need to trust students.

When a teacher writes his student a pass to the restroom, he needs to trust that the student will go to the bathroom and come straight back. If a teacher leaves the room for a moment to make copies, she needs to be able to trust the students not to do anything dangerous.

In these instances students are out of teachers' care for a few minutes. But a student who is somewhere where she is not supposed to be undermines that trust.

Obviously, if a student is skipping, no one knows where she is and she cannot be accounted for. She is unsupervised. Unfortunately, as the fire near Stage Three proved, students can't always be trusted when they aren't supervised.

Whether a student is skipping or has a free period, stricter rules are needed regarding where a student with a free period may spend it.

A student with a free period should be allowed only in a classroom under the supervision of a teacher, his or her counselor's office, the library, or, if they are a senior, the senior lounge.

If a student is in the hall, he or she must have an authentic pass.

Clearly defining where a student can be during free periods isn't infringing on anyone's rights. Students who need to go from place to place during their free periods will simply have to get a pass from a faculty member. Even class-skippers won't have much problem with these rules as long as they are quiet and not doing anything dangerous, like trying to singe a net apart.

Taking the higher road

Because Shaker is a school that heralds its efforts to promote racial unity, it was surprising that a polarizing speaker was invited to kick off the school's African-American history month celebration last February.

Now as the administration finalizes its invitation for this year's speaker, we hope they have chosen someone who espouses a less divisive point of view.

Last year's speaker, Samella Abdullah, president of the Association of Black Psychologists, diluted her lecture on the achievements of three black rights advocates with inflammatory statements.

She called Caucasians "European oppressors" since, according to her, it was Europeans who first enslaved blacks. Indeed, she insists that African-Americans today suffer from post traumatic stress disorder due to past enslavement.

Instead of pointing out that West African kingdoms had run a vibrant slave trade for centuries before Europe, or that not all white students have slave trader ancestors, Abdullah branded half her audience sinners. She then criticized the entire American educational system for not teaching enough about African history.

Abdullah seemed to have forgotten that Shaker offers a class in African-American history that, according to the Planning Guide, serves to "increase awareness of and interest in an Afro-centric view of the world."

The administration must inform this year's speaker of the efforts Shaker has made to promote interracial harmony and of the diverse audience he will face.

We hope this year's African-American History Month celebration will be elevated by a speaker who exemplifies the successfully integrated reality in which we live.

Anti-globalization protesters are victims of media

Peter Morgenstern-Clarren
Guest Writer

The co-editor-in-chief's Oct. 31 editorial, "Protesters, extremists mirror each other in calls for peace," is fluff, although I want to avoid discussion of the war and specifically correct the assumptions about who the protesters are and what the system is in which we find ourselves.

The author describes "anti-globalization protesters known for their assaults on police officers in Seattle and Genoa," who "wore gas masks and combat boots while holding posters advocating peace."

I will ignore the fact that police killed a young protester in Genoa in this critique.

The editor has no idea what these protesters are angry about, and from internal ignorance comes shallow analytical generalizations. Few protesters call themselves "anti-globalization" protesters. You can't protest globalization. It is a fact of economic life. The protesters are protesting the negative effects of the new global network— nothing less than the intentional enforcement of poverty in Asia, Africa, South America, even the United States.

We risk ignoring the plight of the world's poor at our own peril, because desperate people have nothing to lose and want to destroy the United States, which, rightly or wrongly, they view as an oppressive country.

Globalization means increased power and control in fewer and fewer hands throughout the world, with less and less power for leaders of small communities.

For example, 30 years ago there were American companies with American workers and Chilean companies with Chilean workers. Now the big companies are almost all transnational corporations. Transnational corporations (TNCs) are companies that have white-collar workers, such as accountants, in wealthy countries and blue-collar workers, such as machinists, in poor countries throughout the world.

A TNC often has the brain power and the research and development based in the U.S., Europe or Japan (the first world) and the often near-slave-wage labor throughout the third world. For instance, Disney pays its workers in Haiti basement wages, and Gap pays its workers in the U.S. commonwealth of Saipan far below U.S. minimum wage, and then prints 'Made in the USA' on the clothes. Don't be surprised that you don't hear about this often on ABC, NBC or CBS- they are owned by Disney, Westinghouse, and General Electric, all transnational corporations.

Transnational corporations move their factories and plants to wherever they can pay workers the least, a process of globalization. If country A has a minimum wage of three dollars an hour, and country B has a minimum wage of two dollars an hour, the corporation will move to country B. Country A will then lower its minimum wage to one dollar an hour to try to get the corporation to move its factories back.

This downward spiral of wages is real and rarely reported on in the mainstream media or in American schools, every day.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Bank —giants made up of lots of TNCs against which students, labor unions and environmentalists around the world have been fighting — facilitate free trade. Free trade means expanding trade between countries, presumably for the countries' own benefit, although the poor never benefit due to necessary cuts in worker wages.As far as the editor's image of Nazi-like protesters, let me tell you about my experience with police and protesters in DC in April, 2000, during the protests against the IMF and World Bank. On a sunny morning, thousands of peaceful protesters and I held arms around the huge blockade that encircled the IMF building.

Almost all of the protesters were peaceful, but violence sells, so the television networks showed only broken windows.

At about noon, a huge bus pulled up to my friends, who were all sitting on the ground in a circle by the blockade, and a dozen or so police in full riot gear (shields, guns, batons, etc.) poured out and started severely beating them. My friend Brian's nose was broken but he couldn't move, havine tied himself to the ground so that cars wouldn't go by. The police also smashed the face of a nice girl from Oakland that I had met that day.

Several people were pepper-sprayed, which is like having liquid jalapeno pepper rubbed in your eyes.

If you are starting to sense that there are certain things that the corporate-owned media doesn't report on, go to www.projectcensored.org where you can see the twenty-five biggest stories last year that all the networks didn't report on. Among the 25 stories is that TNCs like Monsanto are starting to privatize (steal legally, more or less) water supplies in poor countries like Bolivia. By the way, there were huge riots in Bolivia last year because of the water theft, and the whole country shut down. But you didn't hear about that.

Come fly the 'friendly' skies

Ashley Davies
Opinion Co-editor

"Fly the Friendly Skies," chimes the United Airlines commercials, but these days, those friendly skies are filled with fear and anxiety about whether passengers will become statistics in the next news story.

Shortly after Sept.11, the Airline Pilots Association, which comprises 67,000 members, proposed that pilots and cockpit crew members be allowed to carry firearms on a voluntary basis to protect themselves and their passengers.

Today, when a pilot is at the mercy of the hijacker, the only line of defense is the all-mighty axe, a tool used to break windows and doors after a crash in order to escape the wreckage.

Even if pilots want to use the axe against hijackers, its awkward location — at the foot of the cockpit door — makes reaching it without a struggle unlikely.

What's next, a pea-shooter? With that mentality, I would not be surprised if pilots were soon forced to defend themselves with slingshots and pebbles. Delays and lousy airline meals have historically preoccupied passengers who now wonder "Am I going to live through the flight?"

Members of federal agencies such as the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Postal Service and the Department of Energy are allowed to carry firearms on board commercial airplanes, but pilots cannot.

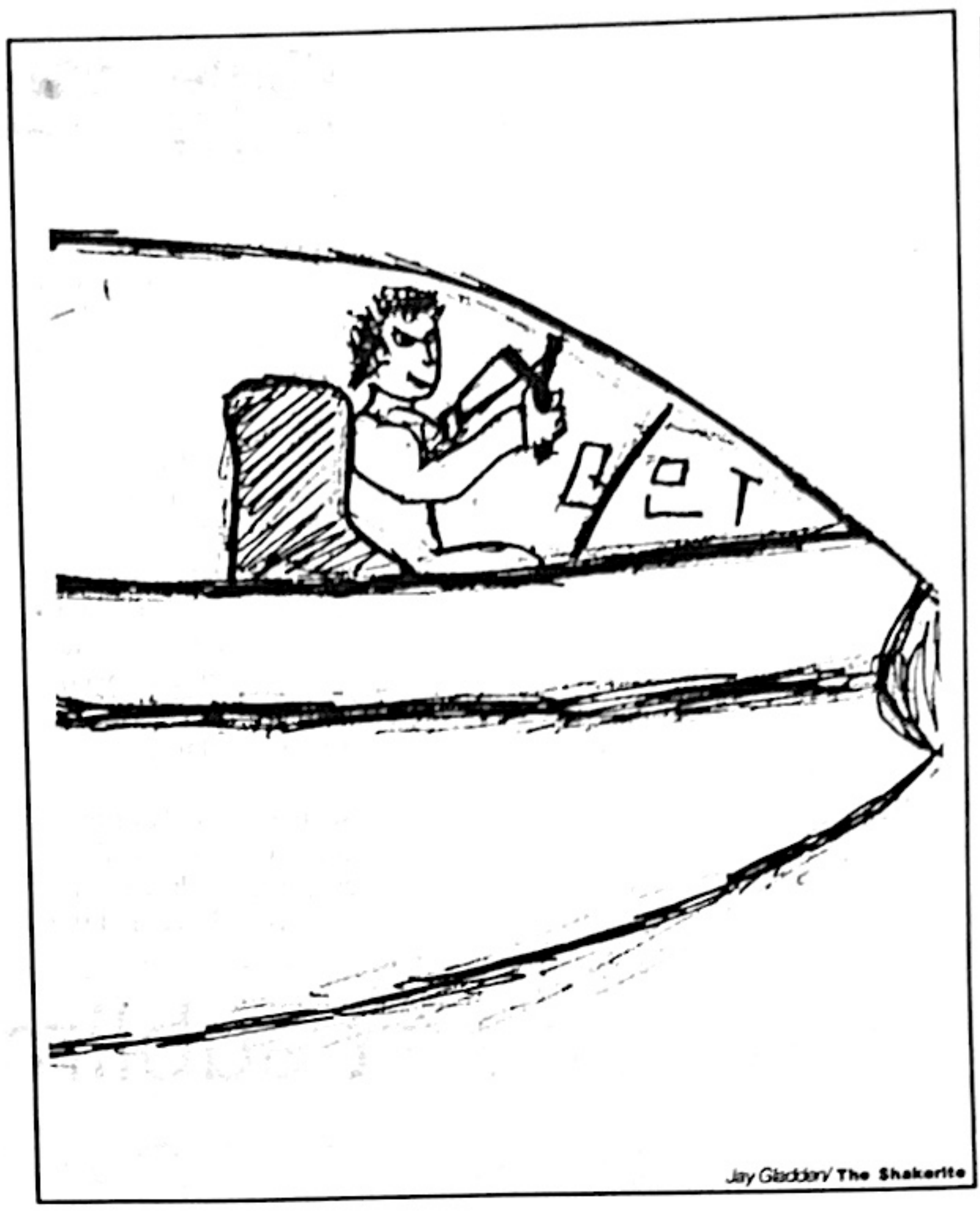
Many commercial pilots have some kind of military background and so have firearms experience. Bullets in pilots' firearms would be made of a highly compressed, powdered alloy that will pierce skin but not metal or cabin windows, which could jeopardize the aircraft.

Pilots can handle firearms and are not reckless amateurs, as the anti-gun left seems to believe. There are no anti-terrorism heroes like Wesley Snipes in "Passenger 57" who will save the day when a plane is overtaken.

Critics argue that a crazed pilot with a gun may shoot up the cabin.

That's preposterous; a pilot who wants to kill people already has a bigger weapon — the plane. Nothing's stopping pilots from acting out now. We trust these capable pilots with our lives. Shouldn't we trust them to save us when faced with a person or group of people trying to commandeer a plane?

My argument for guns on planes isn't just a frantic reaction to the recent hijackings. Putting guns on planes is an effective solution. During the 1970s, U.S. sky marshals ended a wave of hijackings, but when the threat was over, the sky marshals left. Marshals are now on planes but there aren't enough of them to go around. Pilots need to be armed, too. When the attacks on Sept. 11 occurred, a lot of people found themselves saying, "I can't believe that this could happen to us." It can. This threat of terrorism has always been present, but mostly overlooked. Arming pilots isn't a temporary solution to a new problem; it's necessary for the safety of this country.



Jay Gladden/ The Shakerite

Alex Madorsky
Staff Reporter

Reflections on turning 18 in high school

By the time you read this, I will have turned 18 years old, finally reaching the adulthood that I once longed for so badly. Now that I approach this new stage in my life, I wish I could stay young forever.

This is surprising, because as recently as a year ago I couldn't wait to graduate from high school and move on with my life. Now, I don't really want to leave.

Turning 18 isn't quite as exciting as I thought it would be when I was a high school freshman, when something seemed mystical about becoming an adult.

The number 18 translates to "life" in Hebrew, a language where numerals have letter equivalents. Being 18 really seemed like it would be a different life to me then, and perhaps it will be now.

I will finally be able to throw the rascals out of office by voting. Although the joys of cigarettes and strip clubs do not entice me, surely I will indulge in a Dominican stogie or two to celebrate my newfound adulthood and the one pleasure I can legally engage in that was forbidden to me as a youth.

I have no big plans for my birthday. I've never been much for birthday parties, and I don't see why that should change simply because I will be 18.

Perhaps I will smoke flavored tobacco from an Israeli hookah, perhaps I will be in a Jacuzzi, perhaps I will be at dinner with my grandparents. None of it much seems to matter.

Under any facade of mirth I may project, underneath I will be worrying about my future. I will worry about going off to college far away and finding employment upon graduation in an economy that may still be lagging.

I have occasionally, and probably falsely, thought of myself as a socialist in the past. Now that I will be 18, I see that this ideological tendency resulted from my sloth, not a belief in the collective ownership of the means of production or the abolition of private property.

I am still essentially loyal to the middle-class ethos of Shaker Heights. It just seemed like it would be nice not to be a slave to salary and wages, to managers and offices.

The idea of having to work for a living makes me wish I could be a high school student for eternity. Even with graduate school taken into account, eventually I must enter the labor force.

My greatest fear in life is being reduced to abject poverty. I often envision myself living without a television, without a computer and the other comforts of cushy suburbia. I can never turn back, and what lies ahead I do not know.

College students party too hard for their own good

Rob Rains
Opinion Co-editor

Are you ready? The question lingered in the air like smoke from Camel cigarettes as we made our way onto the Kenyon College campus.

A sense of excess hung heavy as well, weighing us down in the afternoon sun.

My first feelings when I saw the school were ones of awe and insecurity. Here I was, surrounded by several thousand students who had reached the higher echelon of learning. How dared I penetrate their territory prematurely? I tried to act mature, storing away my opinions on who the most attractive cast member on the TV show "Friends" is for the more serious discussions on how our country is handling itself in the wake of terrorist attacks.

Don't let them know you're in high school, just act like they act. After all, these guys are beyond such petty things anyway. I forgot this axiom after witnessing some unlucky sophomore charge his way toward a sink to reject what he had been imbibing for quite some time through a plastic tube. Excess.

Ignore the student in the bathroom and concentrate on something else.

While a sick kid is easy to forget, other examples of recklessness stuck in my mind. The endless sea of parties and drunken co-eds will dance in my head for days but other, smaller, less significant details will linger much longer.

We were welcomed at every party with the ubiquitous greeting by any student, a beer and a handshake. The drinking for the students was something entirely different.

It started out like a dripping faucet, picking up steam and intensity so that by three in the morning the participants were dead tired.

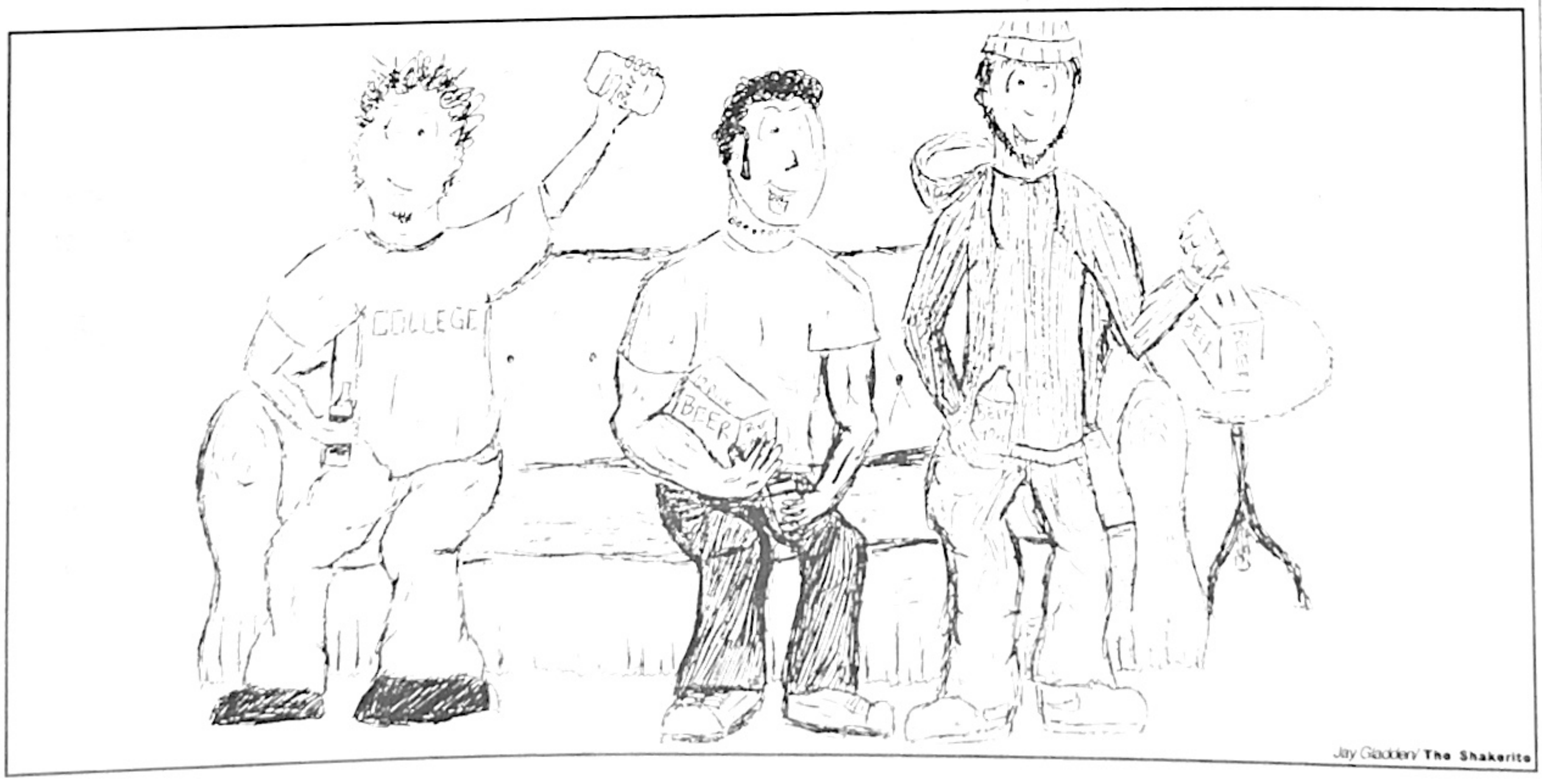
At one point, one of my hosts for the weekend picked up a woman's bicycle and proceeded to ride into trees and aimlessly down hills into certain injury or worse.

My only hope at the end of the trip was that we had gone to such excess that there was no way that it could possibly have happened. I now sit huddled over my computer, in desperate need of both a shower and a clean pair of clothes, pondering over my journey into some type of warped circus.

The carnival came to town and I had escaped the freak show unscathed. Remnants of last night's "good times" are stained on my pants and the stench of a mixture of sweat and alcohol engulfs my shirt. My head hurts. Too much too fast.

College kids seem like children alone in a candy store. Limited by time, they steal all the candy they can without being caught.

Many students at college try to push themselves to insatiable limits to brag to their friends of their increased stamina for late-night carousing. Slow down. You've got four years.



Jay Gladden/ The Shakerite

Reading, writing and rubbers

Allison Walthe
Copy Editor

At Shaker we are pretty lucky to have a sex-ed program that doesn't just preach abstinence. Health teachers talk about various birth control methods, including the condom, which is the only contraceptive that also significantly reduces the transmission of STDs.

But dangerous behavior such as unsafe sex isn't going to stop with a teacher simply telling students that using a condom is a good idea. There are 418 public schools around the country that make condoms available to students. Shaker should follow suit.

The 1995 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 53 percent of high school students have had sexual intercourse. Of those students, almost 21 percent of males and 14 percent of females have had sexual intercourse with four or more people. Only a little more than half of sexually active students reported using a condom.

With teens accounting for 25 percent of new STDs occurring annually in the United States and one million teenage women becoming pregnant each year, it is crucial that condoms are made available to those students who are sexually active.

But would distributing condoms in school really make a difference in how many sexually active students use condoms? The answer is yes. A comparison of public high schools in New York City and Chicago found that having condoms available in school is a good move.

About 60 percent of high school students are sexually active in both cities. In New York, however, where condoms are available in schools, sexually active students were more likely to report using a condom than were students in Chicago, where condoms are not available in school.

Of course, people will argue that distributing condoms will make students want to have sex even more. Many believe that the mere suggestion of sex will send Shaker students hog-wild, bedding everything that moves.

But the way I look at it the people who are already having sex will take the condoms because they are free. People who are practicing unsafe sex will no longer have an excuse.

But the people who aren't having sex aren't going to start just because they spot a basket of condoms in the bathroom.

Abstinence is a choice that responsible students make for a variety of reasons. They recognize that abstinence is the only surefire way to prevent STDs and pregnancy. Someone who is strong-willed enough to stay abstinent in our sex-crazed culture isn't going to be swayed if he or she sees a condom.

Health teachers, the nurse and the school psychologist should all be willing to distribute condoms for free to students who ask.

In order to cut down on the spread of STDs and unwanted pregnancies condoms should be available to all students - immature or otherwise.

There's no absolute way to make sure that people use condoms every time they have sex. But free distribution of condoms can definitely cut down on the heat-of-the-moment-oops-I-didn't-use-a-condom thing.

Minorities must combat subliminal discrimination

Kyan Safavi
Staff Reporter

Past and present point to subliminal discrimination against small minorities

If you caught someone using the n-word as you walked down the hall, you would probably be enraged.

But would you react at all if you heard a term like Jap, towelhead or dego?

Whether directly or indirectly, consciously or subconsciously, Shaker's smaller minority groups have been targets for racism.

Simple ignorance is the culprit of such bigoted behavior; many students use the word "Chinese" to describe a person of seemingly Asian decent. But often these people are Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, Mongolian, Cambodian, or just about any nationality other than "Chinese."

The simple fact that the majority of Asian immigrants are Chinese-Americans (approximately 1.6 million) does not sanction the use of the word "Chinese" in such a manner. Although Shakerites may think this a minor slip, it is one that occurs all too often within our community.

A poll of racially diverse Shaker students reveals that 91 percent admit to frequently using the word "Chinese" to describe an Asian American without knowing his or her actual nationality.

A variety of other ethnic groups and nationalities have weathered the storm of racism throughout America, going largely unnoticed.

In Shaker, Japanese-Americans have encountered several instances of stereotypes.

Yutaro Komuro, a sophomore, said that he does not appreciate the assumption that Japanese use chopsticks or that they eat cats or dogs. Japanese-Americans were a target of prejudice during World War II. Thousands were sent to relocation camps dispersed throughout the United States, taken from their homes and families. It took until 1988 for the U.S. government to issue a formal apology to those Japanese-Americans held in the camps.

Unfortunately, other nationalities have experienced similar abuse.

Presently, Mexicans are exploring new ways to enter the country and obtain employment. Millions of these immigrants are forced to work under minimum wage and without such benefits as insurance.

Yet these substandard conditions have not been remedied for hundreds of years and little progress has been made.

Arab-Americans are one of the most blatantly disregarded cultures within Shaker and the country. Certain aspects of their ethnicity have been attacked. For example, the discriminatory term "towelhead" is used to describe Arab men because of the customary turbans that they wear.

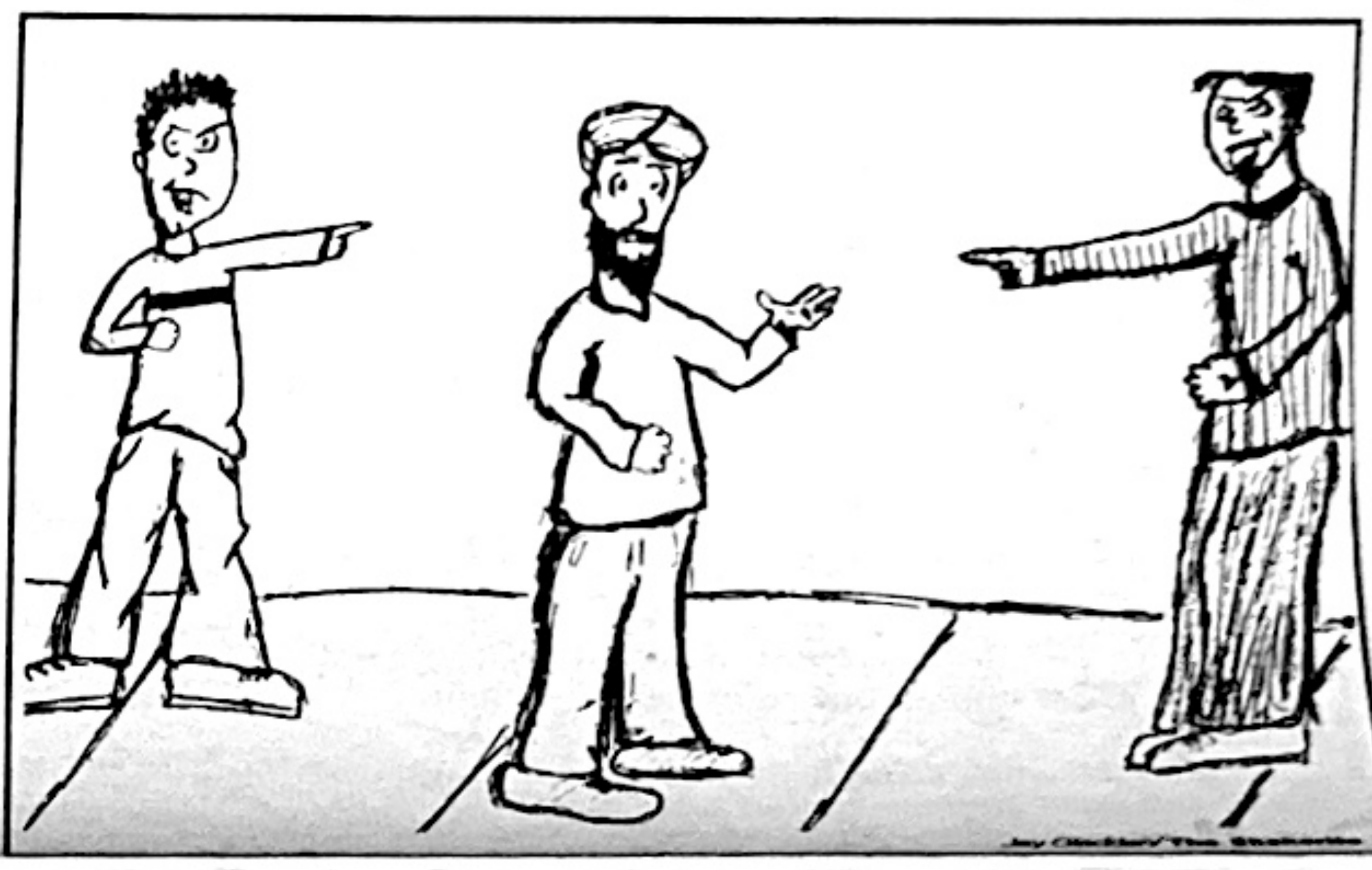
Other misinformed students advocate the stereotypical view that all Arabs conspire in terrorism, particularly aimed at the U.S. These acts are committed by only a secluded group of extremists; yet, all Arabs suffer discrimination.

Recently, an e-mail containing a list of jokes concerning Osama bin Laden was forwarded to dozens of Shaker students.

One of these students, Jonathan Stange, believed so strongly that the jokes were going to be ethnocentric that he simply refused to open the e-mail. "I just saw the title and immediately deleted it from my mail box."

As a Muslim-American, I have experienced a number of stereotypes that have infuriated me.

On one occasion, my English teacher related a novel that our class was reading to the present debates over Islam concerning the fundamentalists that have terrorized America.


Jay [illegible]/The Shakerite

The discussion led to the mention of the practice of Ramadan, a month-long period of Muslim fasting, and one student immediately looked at me and yelled out my name.

This is a typical example of subconscious racism that takes place in our society.

In order to stifle the racism that plagues the smaller minorities within Shaker we must open our minds to a greater state of awareness.

As a community we must consider all of the complex nuances of our cultural society and be cognizant of the various tensions that may exist.

A superficial examination of the racial situation in Shaker Heights may allow us to believe that all is in a state of perfect harmony.

Yet we have only begun to break the surface of racism in our community.

We may sometimes discriminate against smaller minorities, but it's more important to learn from our past mistakes and realize the diversity in our community.

10-second tick-off

Please let me go to my locker

It's sixth period and I have just enjoyed my **lunch** and have plans to finish my **history test**, but, I can't get out of the cafeteria because students can't leave before the bell. I find it really ridiculous that I can't go to my locker or go see a teacher during the one half hour of my day that I am **not** in class. What if I left my lunch in my locker? Am I supposed to **starve?** We're all capable of moving around the school **without** so many people trying to stop us.

- Sarah Landreth

Stop complaining so much!

The people who write these 10-second tick-offs need to **grow up.** This is high school — you need to realize that you have to deal with your **own** problems. People have enough to worry about without knowing how you can't get a soda. Maybe you should try **plugging** in the machine first!

- Seth Malone
Andrew Kober

Read the book and stop cheating!

I read **Harry Potter.** Yes my friends, I took the time out of my busy schedule to read a book that I **wanted** to read. I was one of the millions who were swept into **Hogwarts fever,** I experienced Harry's trek to wizardry along with him. Neglecting my responsibilities, I was addicted to J.K. **Rowling's** words. To those seeing the movie without reading the book first, you're cheating! **READ IT!**

- Meryl Kramer

Twice the trouble: Examining the double standard

Girls and guys face contradictory messages about sex. Two students sound off!

By Daniel Stephenson
Guest Writer

So what's the big rush? You know, to have sex. Some say it is more fulfilling to wait until you're older or even married. Others say that postponing the first time won't make it any better, because a lack of experience only leads to a less satisfying one.

Either way, the decision for many teens reflects Americans as a whole: we are impatient. We can't wait around for the big gang! We have to have the best, most satisfying life as soon as possible. Today, relationships usually begin with hooking up and develop from there. A famous quote states: Patience is a virtue, sometimes found in women, never found in men. It comes as no surprise that views on sex differ greatly between men and women.

> "Unfair, it is not, but sad, yes, that girls bring this limitation on their sexual freedom upon themselves."

Fellas, it's as simple as this: girls will do anything to please their men. I mean, they have to like you first, but after that, it is their inborn nature to do what it takes to make you happy. If that means having sex, then so be it, as long as you will be there for her when she wants to talk and maybe when that new Versace dress comes out right before Homecoming.

What gets me, though, is how girls think it's unfair that they are called hoes when they have sex while guys gain popularity as pimps for enjoying themselves. This double standard isn't unfair because girls bring it upon themselves.

Yes, you heard me right: girls cause, as well as aggravate, this dilemma. Contrary to popular female belief, guys are not the ones who start placing names on girls who have sex: the first one to call a girl a name will be another girl. We just repeat what we hear from women and may even incorporate it into a "tribute" of a rap song (if our name is Ludacris). If girls could just make up their collective minds on whether or not sex is OK, there would not be a problem.

The way I see it, guys have the world figured out: it's all about beer, women and football. I mean, that's not all we care about (ladies, I'll go stargazing anytime), but at the same time, we are not all that difficult to understand.

We fight with each other, true, but settle it with one brawl and that's that. We don't need to be cold, calculating or downright evil to one another. We also all agree that it is something to be proud of if you hook up with a girl or have sex. We can call each other pimps proudly or even take being called a hoe from a girl. But if girls have a problem with guys who hook up with a lot of girls, why do they continue to add to his list?

Girls dig their own graves on this issue because when they want to have sex, they want a man with experience, which only feeds men's pimp egos. Women have been caught in a dangerous cycle and need to learn a lesson or two from their male counterparts.

We don't exclude a girl from the fun just because she lacks experience. In fact, guys go out of their way to share the wealth based on such selfish reasons. (Aren't we generous?)

So girls, thinks next time before calling that girl a skank, because what goes around, comes around. Guys, remember that dedication and effort toward something you care about make victory that much sweeter. Maybe we can even change that quote on patience. But on second thought, who can wait that long?

By Patricia Chatman
Guest Writer

Women have fought for numerous issues over the years: the right to vote, equal opportunity in the work place and even the right to do as they please with their bodies. Yet somehow we forget the most important right of all: the right to have an orgasm. It's funny — I want the same opportunities men have, including sexual wellness. A man is considered "da man" when he gets some, but women who do the same thing are bombarded with words like "slut," "home wrecker" and "whore."

Look at all the men praised for being male whores — Jesse Jackson, Bill Clinton, Eazy-E, and the prince, Hugh Heffner. People act as if sleeping around is expected of men. When was the last time a man was blamed for sleeping around?

For instance, if a girl finds out that her boyfriend has "got some" from someone else, automatically the girlfriend wants to fight the other girl. First, both girls will end up suspended because they decided to fight. And second, the day the girls return from their "vacations," the girlfriend will be walking hand in hand with her beloved. The stupid part of the whole situation is the two girls have been fighting over nothing. The damage has been done and nobody has gained anything except the man. Chances are he will be right back to his old tricks that Saturday night.

> "If I'm in a monogamous relationship and I want to have great sex every night, why am I a freak?"

Well, why can't I get mine without my name ending up in the bathroom stalls, without people starting rumors about me? If I'm in a monogamous relationship and I want to have great sex every night, why am I a freak? But a male doing the same thing would just be acting like a man? I'm not saying that being a hoe or sleeping around with everyone should be praised, but there is clearly a double standard for men and women.

Let's take another look at a side of this double standard that everyone has witnessed. When the weather heats up, it is perfectly normal to wear less clothing. In our school, women are sent home, questioned and sometimes suspended for dressing in a "provocative manner." The faculty says that their clothing may be suggestive, alluring and even distracting to the learning process. OK, what about the boy who was looking, cat-calling and even touching the girl? What happened to him? Nothing! Was he sent home? Of course not. Obviously it was the girl's fault; she wanted him to do those things simply because she put those clothes on in the morning. She knew what she was doing. She asked for it.

No. Sorry. I'm beautiful, and if one day I want to wake up and wear a tank top instead of a short sleeve shirt, does that give you the right to treat me differently? I think not. If I want to have an orgasm, wear a tank top or cheat on my boyfriend, it's none of anyone else's business.

The new age of AIDS

By David Morgenstern
Staff Reporter

Since 1988, Dec. 1 has been observed around the world as World AIDS Day. This year, on its 13th anniversary, Shaker is once again joining in and discovering how its own students feel about AIDS.

"I think people are a lot less scared of AIDS today than 10, even five years ago," said freshman Shannon Ashford. "We are a lot more educated with things like sex ed in school. Also, the TV commercials telling us about it are things that everyone sees."

Decreased fear of AIDS has directly affected the prevalence of unprotected sex. Unprotected sex is now more common. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, one in every 10 teenagers who is sexually active does not use protection. Among teenagers, more than 4,000 13-19 year olds had AIDS as of the end of 2000. In addition, almost 5,600 teenagers had the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

"I think it's dumb to have unprotected sex," said sophomore Jacob Wick. "Especially since we all know all the STDs, AIDS and stuff that you can get. It's just asking for an earlier death."

"There's more public acceptance of AIDS now than there was in the late '80s and early '90s," said Dr. Keith Armitage, professor of infectious diseases and an AIDS researcher at Case Western Reserve University.

"Since there are drugs that postpone the side effects of the disease, that lets people think that if they contract AIDS, they won't die. That's not true. Now, certain high risk groups like teenagers think that it's OK to have unprotected sex since they are less afraid of the disease," Armitage said.

"I'm not going to allow myself to die for a few minutes of increased pleasure," said junior Courtney Nosal. "I'm not as afraid of AIDS as I used to be because now I am more aware of the disease."

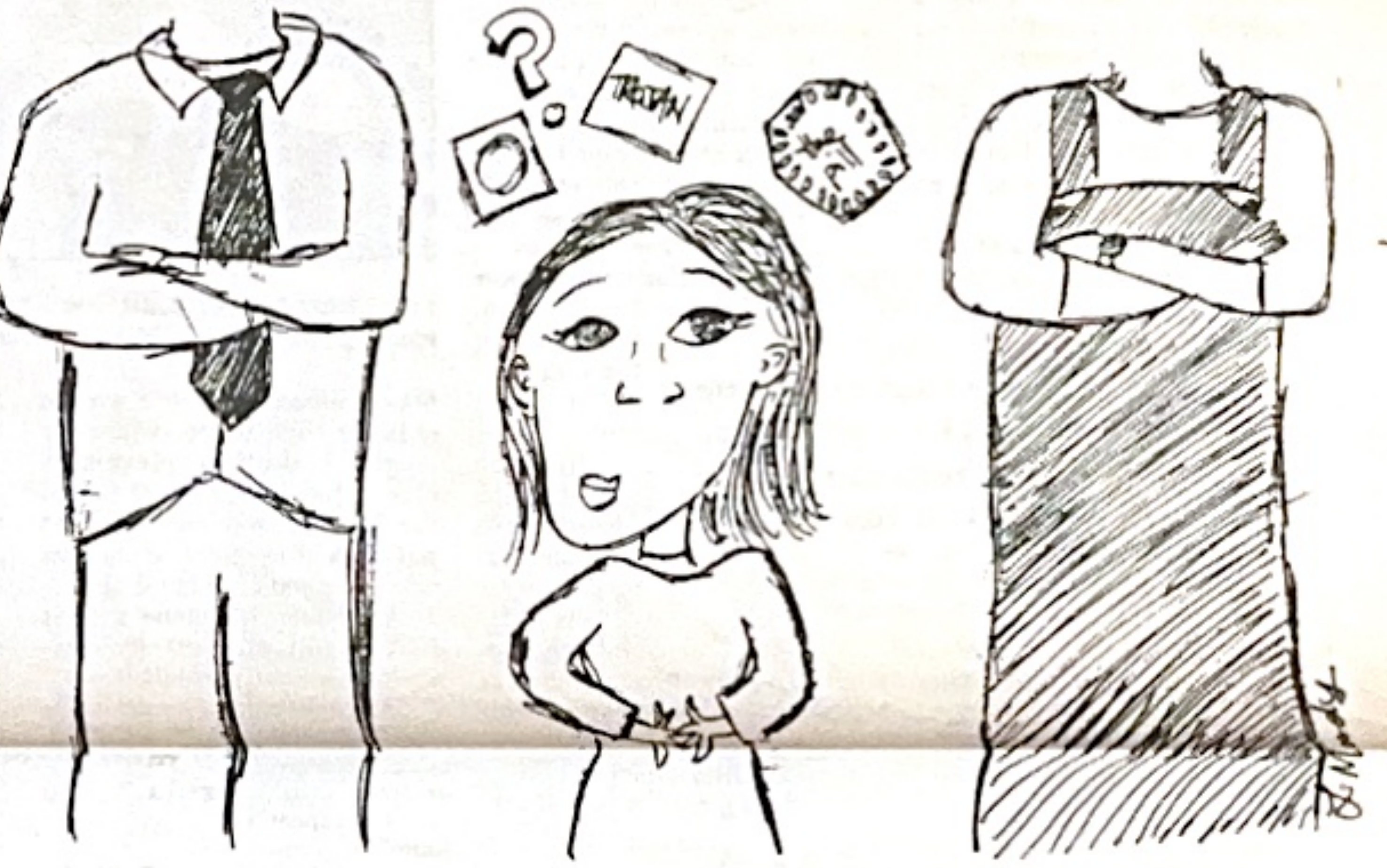
To increase awareness, Shaker's Gay/Straight Alliance distributed lollipops with AIDS facts attached to them Nov. 30. It was the group's second-annual World AIDS Day event.

Cliff Harding /The Shakerite

Junior Jay Frate and freshman Faith Gobidas tape AIDS fact cards to lollipops for distribution on World AIDS Day.

"If people don't know about this disease, they are more likely to contract it," said freshman Alliance member Faith Gobidas. "The key to safety is education. We're trying to educate people to save their lives."

SEX & the SUBURBS



A tough pill to swallow

Talking to parents about birth control

By Cassie Heller
Staff Reporter

Many teens share the same worst nightmare: that long-feared conversation with their parents. Yes, after the infamous birds and the bees talk, the issue of birth control is sure to come up.

A common theme on family sitcoms, The Talk always ends pleasantly with a hug from the perfect parents. But in real life, it remains a dreaded experience.

While most students fear confronting their parents about needing birth control, some parents have created an atmosphere that is more receptive to talk about the issue.

One junior has established a strong line of communication with her parents. She had her mother's consent to go to a doctor for birth control.

"My parents provide full support of my decision, as should all parents, whether they approve or not. Once a person has made the decision to be sexually active, it would be counterproductive (for the parents) to deny safety," she said.

Health teacher Christy Russo feels that even if parents offer birth control, that doesn't mean they necessarily encourage sexual activity.

"Generally, I think parents are morally getting the message across to teens to postpone having sex," Russo said. However, "I don't think parents are financially supporting the purchase of birth control for their teenagers because they don't want them to have sex."

One freshman's mother echoed Russo's theory. "I would tell her [my daughter] I think she is too young. But if she was older and involved with one individual, then by all means I would want her to be safe."

One 17 year old at Shaker proved that teens are capable of assuming the responsibility of sexual activity. "[My partner and I] both got tested for STDs before having sex," she said.

Another factor is that teens now have easy and confidential access to contraception.

Organizations such as the Free Clinic and Planned Parenthood provide confidential counseling and free or low-cost contraceptives. Despite teens ability to seek out these organizations individually, maintaining contact with parents about sexuality remains difficult.

Health teacher Hubert McIntyre believes that although the majority of teens have some form of communication with their parents, there is always room for more. Russo agrees. "There isn't adequate communication," she said. "Not all students are comfortable talking to parents, and not all parents are comfortable talking to their teenagers about sex," she said.

Millstone makes it happen

• Not only can she teach you history, she'll teach you to dance

By Alex Buder Shapiro
Staff Reporter

Government and U.S. history teacher Kelly Millstone's father, a Holocaust survivor, always taught her, "Live your life to the fullest because it is the only one you have."

She has taken him seriously, living a life more vibrant than her auburn hair.

Millstone attended Brush High School, and she needs two hands count off the activities she participated in there.

"There was treasurer of Student Council, SADD and sports," said Millstone, who was also a cheerleader and a member of the track and gymnastics teams.

She attended Cleveland State University and continued her active learning, receiving degrees in political science, communications and religion.

After college, she worked with WEWS Channel 5, Cleveland's ABC affiliate. She started as a news desk editor, where she decided which stories would run on that night's news. She worked her way to field producing and reporting. Then, she quit.

"I thought I could change the world, make a difference, inform society. That is not what the job was about. The job was brutal. You had to interview people after crises and remove yourself from the situation. I am a sympathetic . . . person and I cannot work like that," Millstone said.

Upon leaving broadcasting, Millstone went on to teaching. "My goal was still to help people and improve society, and I decided that it was best to do it on a classroom level," she said.

Junior Krystal Redcross said Millstone stretches the curriculum.

"She teaches us more than just what we need to know in US History," said Redcross.

Throughout her schooling, Millstone worked a number of odd jobs, including waitressing by choice. "I think that every person should be a waiter or waitress at some point in their life. You learn more about people in that career than is possible in any other. You encounter every type of person. You become more tolerant of people and of their faults," Millstone said.

> "I think that everyone should be a waiter or waitress at some point in their life."
>
> Kelly Millstone
> social studies teacher

Millstone also designs children's wear and formal gowns. Clients order children's apparel privately through her, but Millstone has had a contract with children's stores. The gowns are individually ordered through her by friends or referrals.

For three years prior to coming to Shaker, Millstone worked at Brush High School, where she taught a dropout prevention class. The class targeted potential dropouts in ninth grade, and she worked to motivate students to achieve and learn life skills.

Cliff Harding/The Shakerite

Kelly Millstone (left) helps student Hassan Adebesin during history class. Millstone, in addition to teaching, makes childrens' clothing.

At Shaker, Millstone advises JCWA and is the freshman class adviser for Student Council.

She is pursuing a master's degree in education at John Carroll University. Recently, she stopped choreographing and teaching gymnastics because she and her husband are expecting their first child.

"I definitely miss it all. But I can't really do gymnastics. I will try to start everything back up again, but the child comes first," Millstone said.

In the meantime, Millstone continues to live by her father's suggestion.

"I want to experience as much as I can in life, gain knowledge about the world and experience everything there is," Millstone said.

A taste of Italy in Cleveland

• Terrorists may have canceled your trip, but you can still go to Italy

By Rebecca Wolff and Sara Reichstein
Feature Co- editors

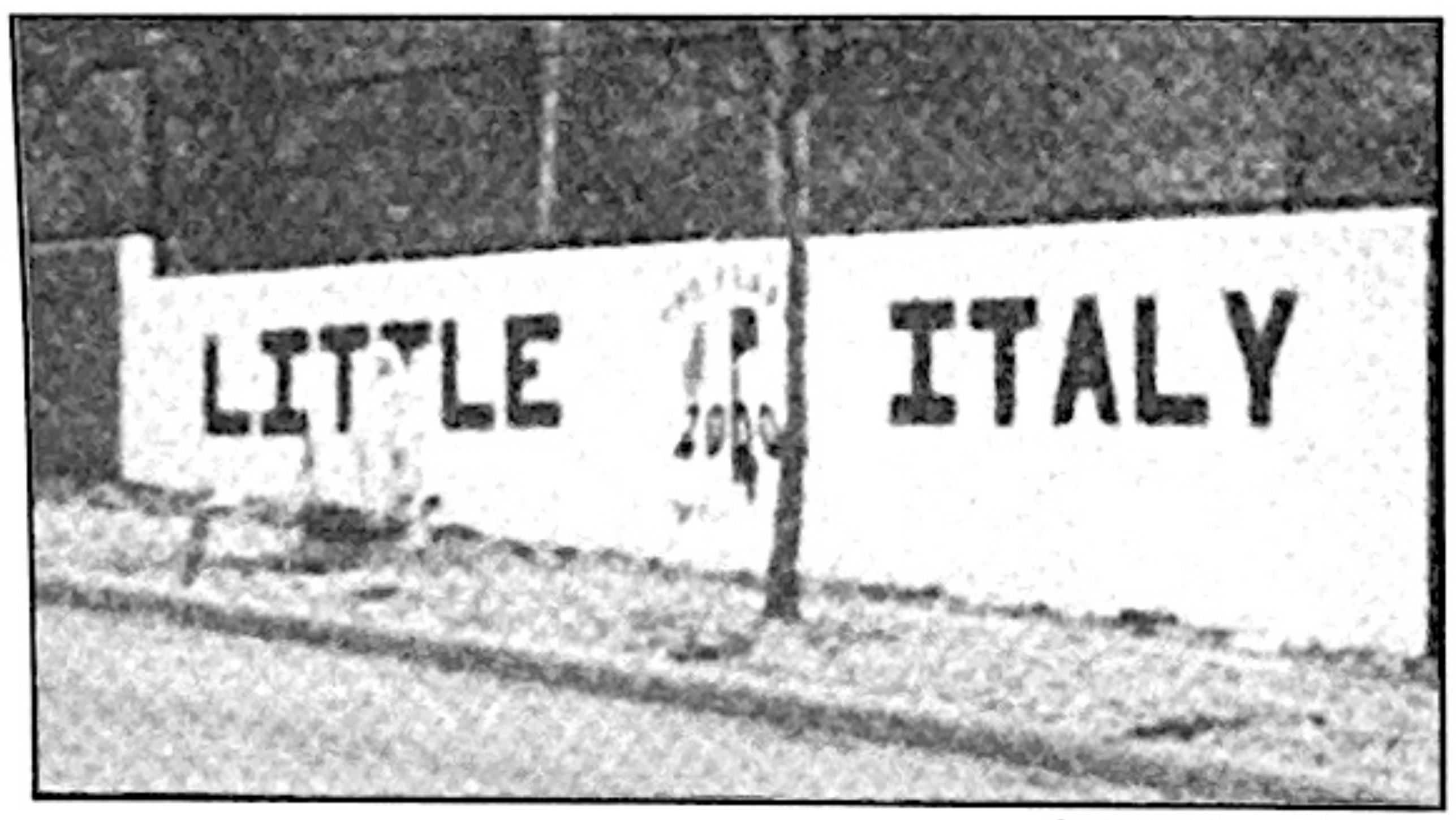
It's Saturday afternoon and you're bored again. You've seen all the movies playing at Shaker Square Cinema. You don't feel like doing your homework. And if you stay home, your mom will have you doing chores in 5 seconds flat.

Don't despair, the answer to your problems lies right outside your front door (actually, about a 20-minute drive in your car). Little Italy is a treasure box of fun things to do.

• **Mama Santa's** has great ambiance, including Italian-flag inspired green, white and red lighting. Unfortunately the green lights cast a sickly glow over anyone unlucky enough to be sitting under them. While waiting for our food we noticed something strange on our table — a sugar shaker. It seemed to us that in an Italian restaurant, a large container of parmesan cheese would make more sense.

Ever wonder if there was a real Mama Santa? She was born in 1908. She even cooked at the restaurant during the '60s.

• Patrizia's could make even a native Clevelander feel like he was on vacation. The store was filled with lots of knickknacks. We found everything from a poster of Marilyn Monroe to old maps of Italy to silk shirts. And like almost every store in America, it carried the omnipresent American gear such as "America" pins and bumper stickers. This shop reminded us a bit of our Grandmas' attics, full of odds and ends. The store was like a travelers' shop in Italy that sells random chotchkes to gullible Americans.



Sara Reichstein/The Shakerite

A banner in Little Italy welcomes people to last summer's festival, the annual feast.

• In Bella Donna's Fine Gifts we found Cleveland's Own Little Italy Pasta Sauce. Actually, according to Eva Maesta at the Little Italy historical museum, Angelo Vitantonio invented the first pasta machine right here in Cleveland's Little Italy. He even had a factory on Murray Hill Road, located off Mayfield Road. Bella Donna's may help you out this holiday season with gifts if you are looking for something unique, such as a bag made out of old newspapers.

Sara Reichstein/The Shakerite

Looking for a cool new pair of shoes? Buy these, complete with soles made from recycled tires

• Little Italy had its own school district during the first half of the 20th century. However, the school closed its door long ago and is now home to various art galleries and shops. One of the stores, Fine Points Too, is home to original shoes made by Mick Wright.

According to the owner, Liz Tekus, Wright started making the shoes after a motorcycle accident somehow hampered his ability to find shoes to fit his feet. He created his own shoes, made soles out of recycled car tires, and hand painted them.

Point to ponder: Does he actually wear these shoes? They look like they're for women.

• A floor above Fine Points Too is home to Strong Binding, a shop that specializes in restoring anything made out of cloth, leather or paper.

The oldest book Ellen Strong, owner and bookbinder, ever rebound was a copy of "Incublia," dated before 1500. But the most profitable of all Strong's restoration jobs was a ripped Mickey Mantel baseball card, which she restored and was able to sell for $6,000.

• We wrapped up our visit to Little Italy with desserts from Presti's Bakery, warming our chilled insides, and making us only want more. There are many delicious desserts to choose from. Coincidentally, both of us dined on a Napoleon. The bakery also sells breads, sandwiches and other pastries for the common luncher.

Jennifer Broadbent
Managing Editor

Bicycles, cell phones and protractors

Junior Jennifer Broadbent, The Shakerite's Managing Editor, is spending the semester in Goslar, Germany.

After more than three months in Goslar, Germany I have noticed certain characteristics of life in Germany that aren't present in the United States.

The first difference an American would notice is how important bikes are to German life.

You must be 18 years old before receiving a driver's licence in Germany, and it also requires a lot more time and money to obtain one than in the United States.

Therefore, teenagers must use bikes, public transportation or simply walk to get around. In small towns such as Goslar, it is actually faster to get from place to place on bike rather than by car.

This is because many of the streets in the city center are completely closed to car traffic. It is also next to impossible to find a parking spot. Bikes are also cheaper for short distances because gas is expensive.

The second observation I made is the "handy", better known as the cell phone in the U.S. Everyone has one.

During the school day, even sometimes in class, German teens send text messages back and forth to one another.

Even the students in my seventh grade German class own handies. In Germany people receiving calls on their handies leave the room to take the call, which doesn't often happen in the U.S.

Adjusting to German eating habits has also been really hard.

The first the big meal of the day is at about one or two o'clock in the afternoon.

In the evening there is a small meal of bread and cheese. German sandwiches consist of two slices of bread coated with butter and a slab of cheese in the middle.

I asked my host sister about this and she explained that the butter stops the cheese from sticking to the bread.

Finally, the best-known German trait is accuracy (we've all heard of good old German engineering).

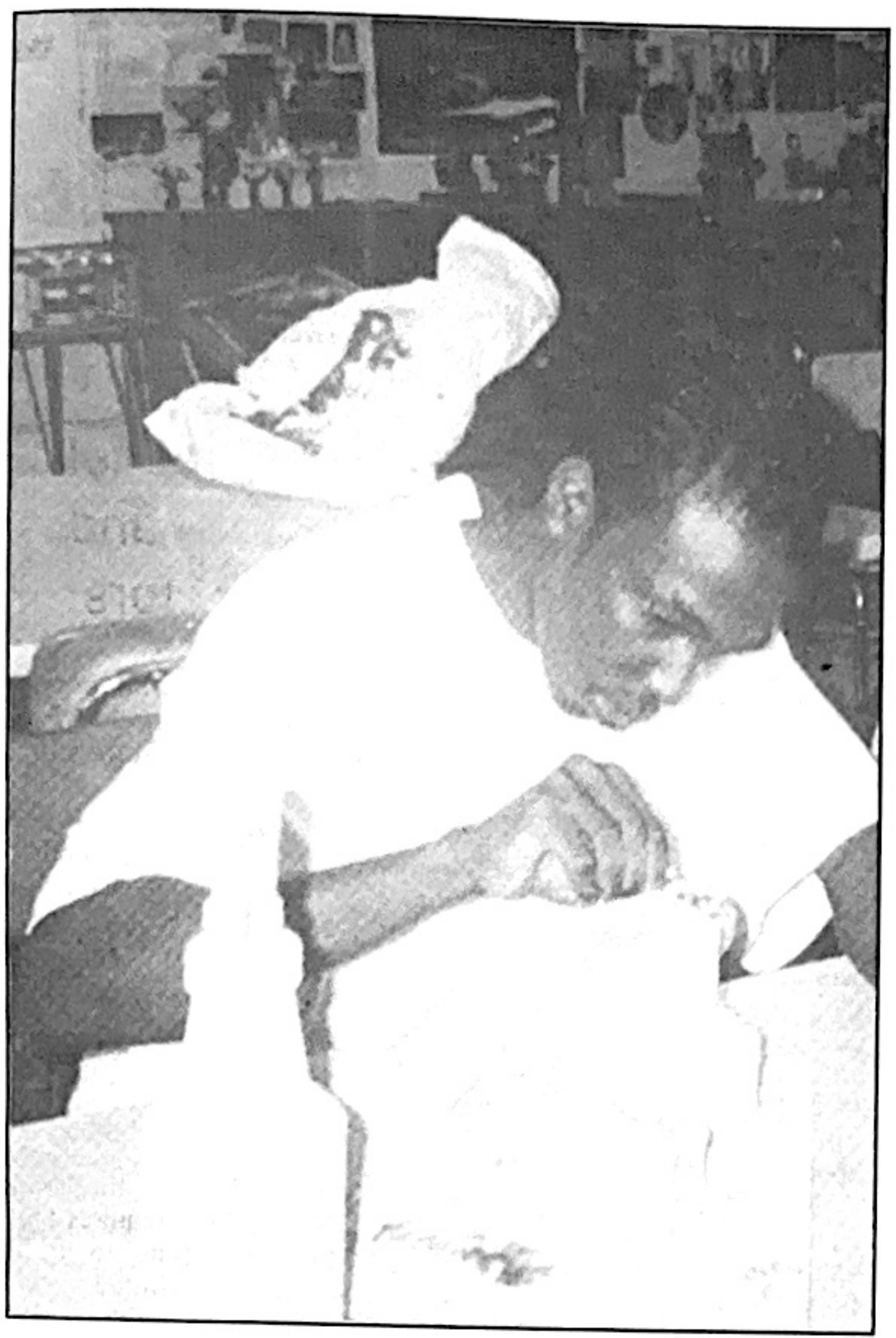
This emphasis on precision begins early in school. Some students' notebooks look like works of art.

For example, in math no one ever free hands a drawing. Every student uses compasses to draw circles, protractors to measure angles and rulers to guarantee straight lines.

If you would like to find out about spending a semester in Germany, contact Mary Ashcraft for further information.

Braids aren't just for girls anymore

• A new trend is weaving its way through student body


Courtesy of The Gristmill

Tremayne Keath, a senior, is just one of many students who has his hair braided.

By Rachel Morgenstern-Clarren
Staff Reporter

Steve Scarver's long black hair is twisted into braids that coil down the sides of his head. Scarver and some of his friends all agreed to wear their hair this way about eight months ago.

"I like to keep it in braids," said Scarver, a sophomore. "Plus, a lot of celebrities are doing it, like basketball player Allen Iverson, and I play basketball."

These students are just one example of people catching on to braids, the country's latest craze among African-American males.

Philadelphia 76ers star Allen Iverson, tennis player Venus Williams and singer Brandy are just a few of the celebrities who inspired the trend.

For reasons ranging from celebrity worship to easy maintenance, more and more students have been growing out their hair and having it braided.

Junior Ronald Washington also thinks musicians influenced the hairstyle.

"A lot of people got braids because they saw rappers like Ja Rule and Snoop Dogg, for instance, with them," he said.

But Washington wears his own hair in braids because it is easier for him to take care of. "I've had my hair braided since I was a freshman. I think it's easier [to wear braids]. I used to have to cut my hair every two weeks," Washington said.

Junior Jose Fontanez also thinks longer hair is easier to manage. "I've been growing my hair out for one year exactly. It's not so much that I wanted a 'fro, but I was just tired of cutting my hair every two weeks. It's low maintenance and braids look better than waves to me anyway," Fontanez said.

> **"I don't want braids 'cause now everyone does."**
>
> Blake Keath
> junior

Security guard Linda Copland says there is a difference between afros and the big hair she sees in the halls now.

"They started out with braids, and you have to grow long hair to get the braids. When they get tired of braiding, they let their hair loose. Now their hair is just wild," Copland said.

Copland also thinks the new version of braids lacks the political force behind earlier afros. "In the '60s it was a sense of being proud of what grade of hair you had, whatever your skin color was. I think the new trend came from the rap and hip-hop era," Copland said.

Science teacher Charlie Morgan, who wears his hair in small dreads, agrees. "It's more of a faddish hairstyle now, whereas before it was more cultural," he said.

"I've had my hair like this for three years. It was my way of reaching back to my heritage."

Still, not everyone is headed to the barbershop to get braids.

"I like having waves," senior Nick McCarthy said. "It's harder to take care of when it's longer. You have to comb it a lot and keep it from getting tangled. When people get braids and then come to school without combing their hair, it's wild."

Junior Greg Kibler agrees. "I think a haircut every two weeks is easier," Kibler said.

Stay out of the malls! People will lick you!

• Believe it or not: the truth about urban legends

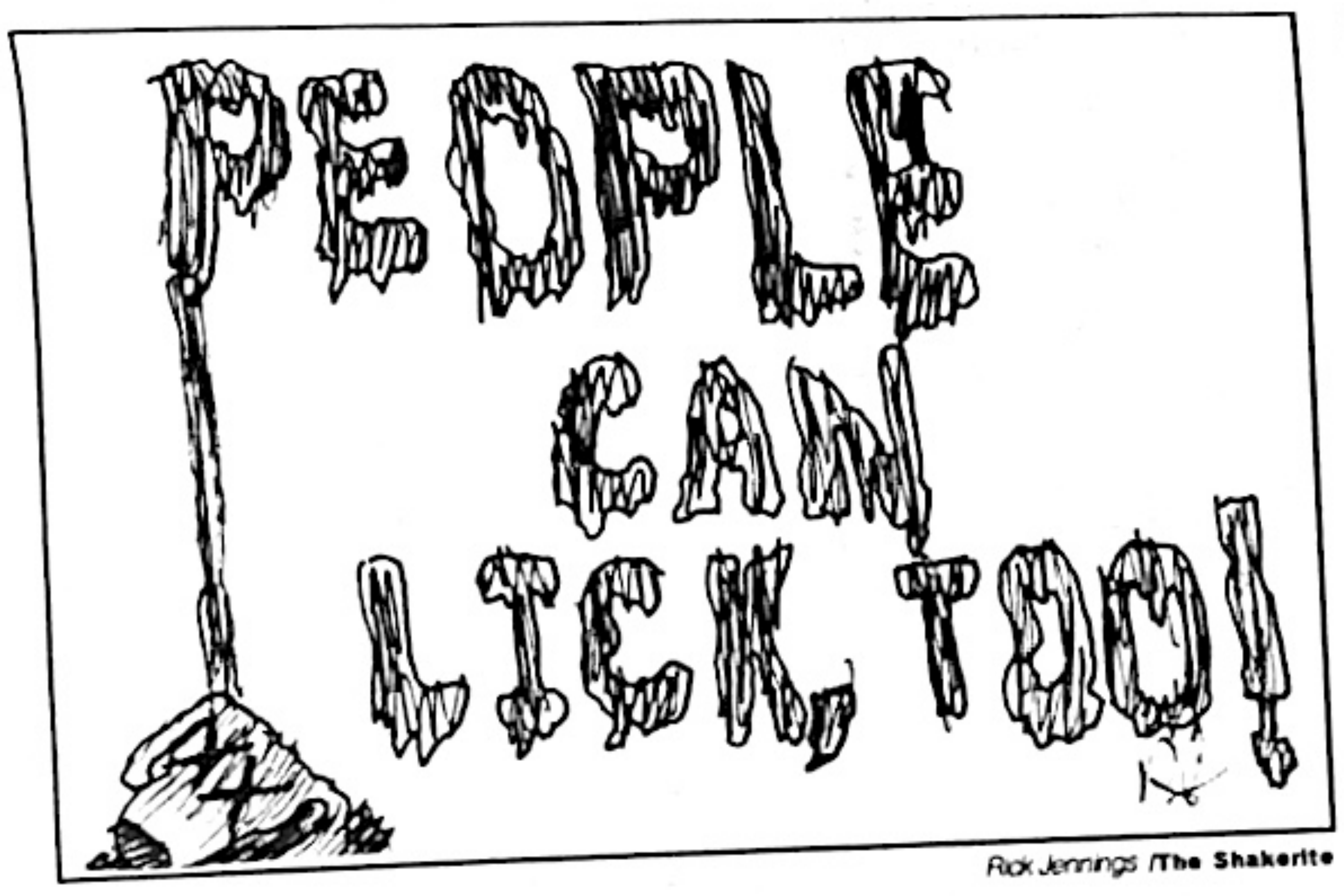
By Alex Buder Shapiro
Staff Reporter

Once there was a girl who was scared of the dark.

She got a collie to reassure her that she wasn't alone. Her parents decided to go out one night, so she ate some dinner and then settled in her bed with her dog.

In the middle of the night, she heard a dripping sound, but decided that someone must have left the water running in the bathroom. She reached her hand over the edge of her bed, and let the dog lick her hand to comfort her.

When she woke up, she went to the bathroom, there was the collie, skinned and hung up on the curtain rod, its blood dripping to the floor. Written on the wall, in blood, was "PEOPLE CAN LICK, TOO."


PEOPLE CAN LICK, TOO!

Rick Jennings /The Shakerite

This story is an example of an urban legend — a modern, fictional story, told as truth, that reaches a wide audience by being passed from person to person. Urban legends usually involve some combination of outlandish, humiliating, humorous, terrifying or supernatural events - events that always happened to someone else.

"Urban legends are some scary stories! People be chopping, hacking, eating and shooting other people," freshman Alex Antolino said.

Following Sept. 11, an urban legend began circulating via e-mail. The e-mail claimed that a friend of a friend was dating an Afghani man who warned her on Sept. 10 not to go on airplanes on the 11th or go to malls on Halloween.

"I wouldn't have changed my plans over some silly e-mail. That would be stupid," freshman John Gustafson said.

Freshman Annie Walter wasn't so confident. "I didn't go to the mall all week, which is a big change for me. When I heard all those rumors, I just decided to play it safe," she said.

According to the Urban Legends Research Center, urban legends are not always false. Usually, they begin as true stories and then slowly begin to change as they are passed along.

Occasionally, the entire story is true except for a small change, such as a college name or a job. Another way of changing a story into an urban legend is when the person telling it changes his or her connection to the source.

Often, an unknown person becomes "my brother's boss" or, most commonly, "a friend of a friend."

Tom Harris, author of "How Urban Legends Work," for howstuffworks.com, explains that urban legends can be generated in several different ways.

Some urban legends are deliberately manufactured hoaxes created to cause alarm and concern by those who derive malicious enjoyment from doing so.

Others are created by people who have encountered a humorous or remarkable story and wish to retell it in a way that personalizes it to some degree.

Why do people so readily believe such ridiculous tales?

"It is a story that sounds like it could be true, so you don't really know what to believe," Gustafson said.

Jan Harold Brunvand, author of "Too Good to be True - The Colossal Book of Urban Legends" agrees.

"One reason that people believe them is that they are not that incredible. They are about familiar places like shopping malls, familiar experiences like traveling, things we are worried about, like crime. It seems as though they could have happened," she told CNN.

For the most part, students don't take the urban legends very seriously. They laugh at them, or tell them as scary stories. However, the stories have made some, like junior Amy Wadsworth, a bit wary.

"You know, I think it's best just to be cautious. Don't leave your doors unlocked and careful with those dogs," she said.

URBAN LEGENDS

YOU SPIN ME

A Charlottesville man died in a freak accident involving his washing machine. According to police reports, Samuel Strickson was doing laundry when he tried to speed up the process. Strickson tried to stuff approximately 50 pounds of laundry into his washing machine by climbing on top of the washer and attempting to force the clothing into the basin. Strickson then accidentally kicked the washing machine's ON button. When the machine turned on, Strickson lost his balance and both feet went down into the machine, where they got stuck.

The machine started its cycle, and Strickson, unable to free himself, started thrashing around. Strickson's head banged against a nearby shelf in the laundry room, knocking over a bottle of bleach, which poured over Strickson's face, blinding him. Strickson's dog then came into the laundry room.

At about the same time a large box of baking soda fell from the shelf, startling the dog, who then urinated. Urine is acidic, and the chemical reaction between the urine and the baking soda resulted in an explosion. The dog, however, escaped unharmed. Strickson remained stuck in the washing machine, which went into its high-speed spin cycle, spinning Strickson around at about 70 miles per hour. Strickson's head then smashed against a steel beam behind the washing machine, immediately killing him.

HIPPO ON A DWARF DIET

A circus dwarf met a disastrous demise when he was swallowed by a hippopotamus in a freak accident in northern Thailand.

Od the Dwarf had just astounded the audience with a trapeze performance when he dismounted onto a trampoline at a bad angle. He was launched sideways into the mouth of a yawning hippopotamus waiting to appear in the next act. Hilda the Hippo gagged and instinctively swallowed the small man while spectators continued to applaud, not realizing their tragic mistake.

Horrified circus members rushed to save the dwarf, but were unable to extract him from the traumatized beast. Veterinarians defended Hilda by pointing out that she was a vegetarian, and had never before digested a circus performer.

compiled from www.Darwinawards.com

New restaurants add spice to Shaker Square

JOSEPH BETH'S BRONTË

Brontë, a cafe that opened inside of Joseph Beth's Bookstore, is a small eatery that offers close to gourmet food. It is located on the northeastern corner of Shaker Square, and it also includes a small coffee house that also offers a few caffeinated drinks and some desserts.

When you first walk into the outskirts of the medium-sized restaurant, the ambiance hits you. Because of the scenic large windows and lamps everywhere you turn, the lighting is always perfect. Each table is well laid out with plenty of space and pretty tablecloths. There is a double-story ceiling, which makes the room seem much larger than it actually is. However, sometimes the food and service does not reflect the atmosphere's perfection.

On any weekend night or afternoon, Brontë is packed with hungry diners. If you cannot be seated, they will give you a "pager" which vibrates when they are ready to seat you. Unfortunately, most of the time you could read an entire book at Joseph Beth's before they've got space for you.

Even when you are seated, service on a busy night is horrible. The time between when you are seated and when the waiter takes your order is dreadfully long, and the rolls they give you are as hard as rocks and don't taste very good.

The menu at Brontë is very eclectic. The food ranges from American influence to French influence to Chinese and many others. The food seems more directed toward lunch than dinner because of the portion size and selection.

I started with the crispy vegetable dumplings which were very good. The dough on the outside lived up to its claim of being crunchy, and the smooth middle complemented it well. However, I was never quite sure what was actually in the middle. It tasted like beef, but had the consistency of beans. Considering there was no description in the menu, I left it to my imagination.

For an entree, I had the vegetarian chili. This dish is usually one of my personal favorites, but I have had mixed feelings about it. It really should not be considered chili because it has more of the consistency of soup. The dish is warm and filling — perfect for the upcoming winter. This was the only vegetarian entree option.

If you want to try Brontë, I advise not going on the weekend. The food is good, but the service takes so long that most of the time it is not worth the wait.

Starters - $5.95-$7.95
Salads - $5.95-$9.95
Entrees - $8.95-$16.95
Sandwiches - $7.95-$9.95

Jeanne Bright

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out of four

JACKIE CHEN'S WOK

With the remodeling of Shaker Square, new establishments are replacing the older ones. I discovered Jackie Chen's Wok, a Chinese takeout restaurant that has been at its Shaker Square location for about four months, while attempting to go to Subway (which, by the way, no longer exists).

The atmosphere of Jackie Chen's Wok does not belie the quality of the food. The dining area is comprised of three tables, only two of which are covered by sticky red pleather tablecloths, and several uncomfortable chairs. However, the food is another story.

Egg drop soup is a traditionally light and rather bland soup, and I wasn't too fond of it. The hot and sour soup was very well-spiced, and full of vegetables, including beets, green onion and tofu. I could barely move my spoon through it because it was so chock-full of fresh veggies. The vegetarian egg roll was among the best egg rolls I have had. The flavor was excellent and it was full of delectable vegetables, including cabbage, carrots and celery.

Even though I requested the orange peel chicken to be of mild spiciness, it was still incredibly piquant. But, nonetheless, it was extremely delicious. It had broccoli, green beans, and other vegetables interspersed among the large chunks of lightly breaded chicken. Chef Chen's favorite beef was also quite spicy. It was quite good as well, and also included loads of vegetables. The scallops were very fresh and abundant.

The cooks did not skimp on the amount of meat in each entree, and I only waited 10 minutes for my food. The restaurant also included free egg rolls and almond cookies. Jackie Chen's Wok is not afraid of spice, as almost everything I ate was quite fiery. I was very impressed with the high quality of the food. Everything I tried was worth the price.

In addition to their scrumptious Chinese food, Jackie Chen's Wok also offers some more traditionally American food, such as French fries and fried chicken wings, as well as desserts such as cheesecake and ice cream.

Before I moved to Shaker Heights in 1989, I lived in Hong Kong. My family enjoys eating Chinese food often, and I know we will be going to Jackie Chen's Wok in the future.

Orange peel chicken (24 oz.) $6.95, (32 oz.) $8.45
Chef Chen's favorite beef (24 oz.) $6.25, (32 oz.) $7.75
Sauteed scallops with vegetables (24 oz.) $7.95, (32 oz.) $9.45
Hot and sour soup (small) $2.50, (large) $3.95
Egg drop soup $2.50
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Friday 11:00 a.m.-11 p.m.
Saturday 12:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
Sunday 2:00 p.sm.-9:30 p.m.
Phone number: 283-3888
Address: 2756A Van Aken Blvd. (behind Shaker Square)

Liz Campbell

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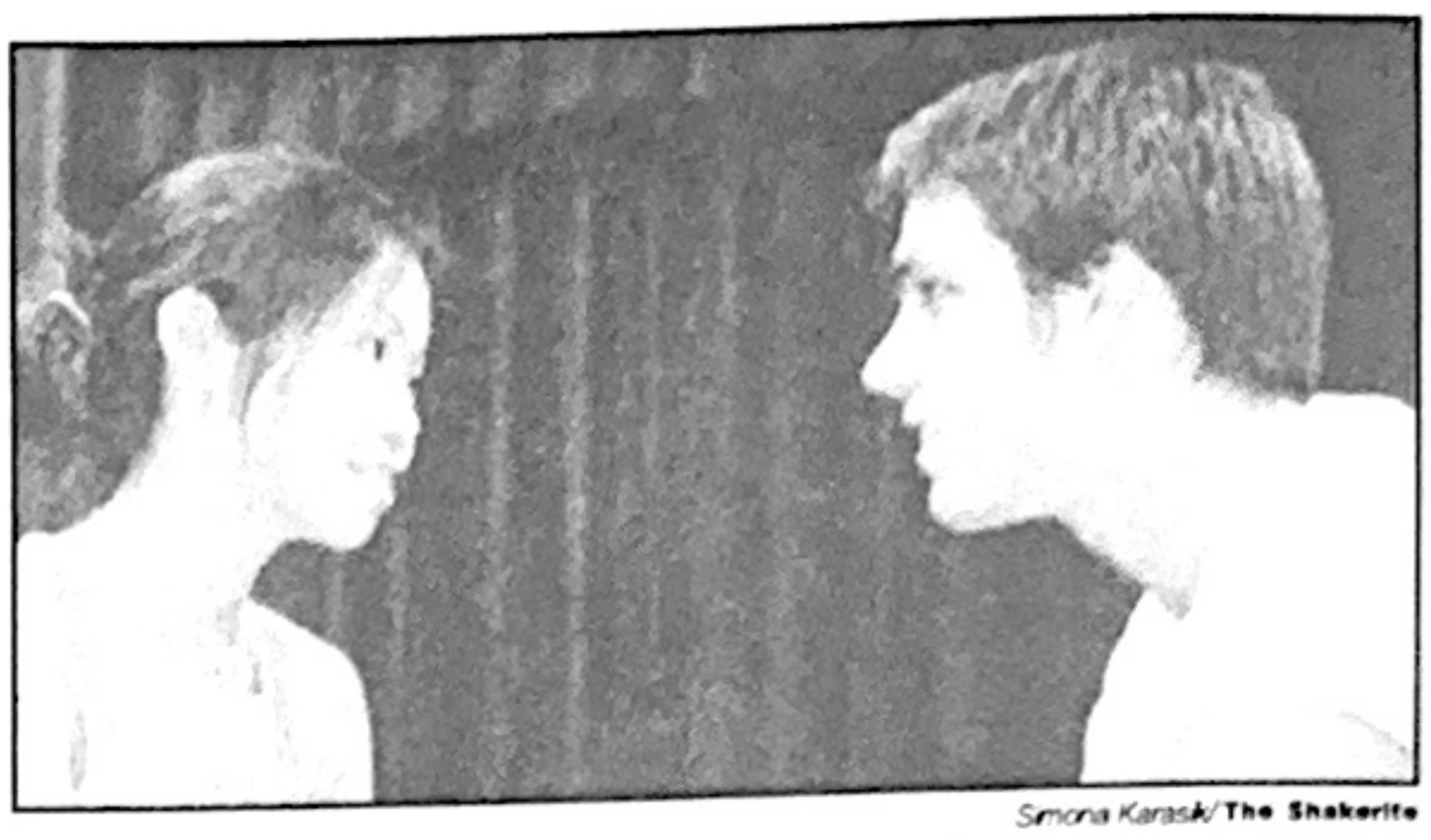


Simona Karask/The Shakerite

Stephanie Fungsang, who plays Juliet, and Chris Delgado, who plays Romeo, practice a scene from the high school's production of "Romeo and Juliet."

Novices take to the stage

By Kirsten Whitehouse
Staff Reporter

On Nov. 28 the auditorium will be packed with anxious parents, family and friends. The curtains will open, and Shaker students will take over the stage with their performance of "Romeo and Juliet."

Hold on to your seats though, this year Shaker welcomes some unfamiliar thespians into the spotlight.

Not only are leads Stephanie Fungsang, playing Juliet, and Chris Delgado as Romeo new to the world of acting, but we also welcome TK Daniel from West Africa, Silvia Morandotti from Italy, and sophomore Denise Mack, all three of whom are completely new to theater at Shaker.

Fungsang, a sophomore, began taking theater classes last year.

This year she is in Senior Ensemble, and felt she was ready to audition for her first play.

"I hate auditions. It was the biggest shock when I found out I was Juliet. I tried out not even thinking I would make it in the show at all, but I was sure surprised," said Fungsang. "I am still insecure because I see everyone else, and how good they are, and I don't have the technique they do."

"I am learning a lot about stage movement and acting," she said.

Delgado, a senior, couldn't agree more. After coming to Shaker only last year, his first role as Romeo was a bit overwhelming initially.

"It took awhile for it all to sink it. Having no acting experience makes it a little tricky, but it is fun. I have a lot to learn, but if I could learn it anywhere, I would learn it here," Delgado said.

Freshman Morandotti from Italy and senior Daniel from Ghana will appear as the curtains open for the first time in a foreign place.

"The Shaker organization is very professional. Italy it is nothing compared to Shaker. This whole experience has been wonderful, I have learned so much and met so many people. I acted in Italy, but nothing like this," said Morandotti.

Daniel also found the Shaker theatre experience rewarding.

"It was overwhelming. Not only do you get to experience drama but you meet a whole lot of friends. My literature teacher encouraged me to try out, but I never knew I would make it this far," said Daniel who plays the prince's man.

Also new to the stage this year is also sophomore Denise Mack.

"I am a very dramatic person, and I wanted to apply that. It has been a lot of fun," said Mack.

Some aspects of the play were hard to get used to.

"We recite this poem during warm-ups, and I just can't speak as fast as they do, so sometimes my friends have to help me figure out what is going on," said Morandotti.

"At first during warm-ups I just acted like I knew what I was doing until I picked it up, but I was completely lost at first," said Mack.

Does Harry Potter catch the golden Snitch?

By Sarah Wang
Guest Writer

I loved the first Harry Potter book. I've probably read it a dozen times. When I heard that Hollywood was going to take one of my favorite books and turn it into a movie, I immediately got worried. Part of the allure of the book is to create the characters and events in my own imagination, and I was concerned that the movie would ruin those images for me.

After enduring several months of tantalizing trailers that revealed scenes from the movie, I was eager to see it.

At first I was a little unsure of the actor chosen to play the pivotal role of Harry, but he grew on me as the movie went on. He embodied Harry's loneliness and intelligence so well.

The actor who played Ron, Harry's magic-impaired buddy, was so adorable and funny. His facial expressions were priceless and presented a really intriguing angle on Ron.

Hermione, Harry's intellectual and skillful junior-witch friend, was really obnoxious but she played her part almost exactly as I had imagined it.

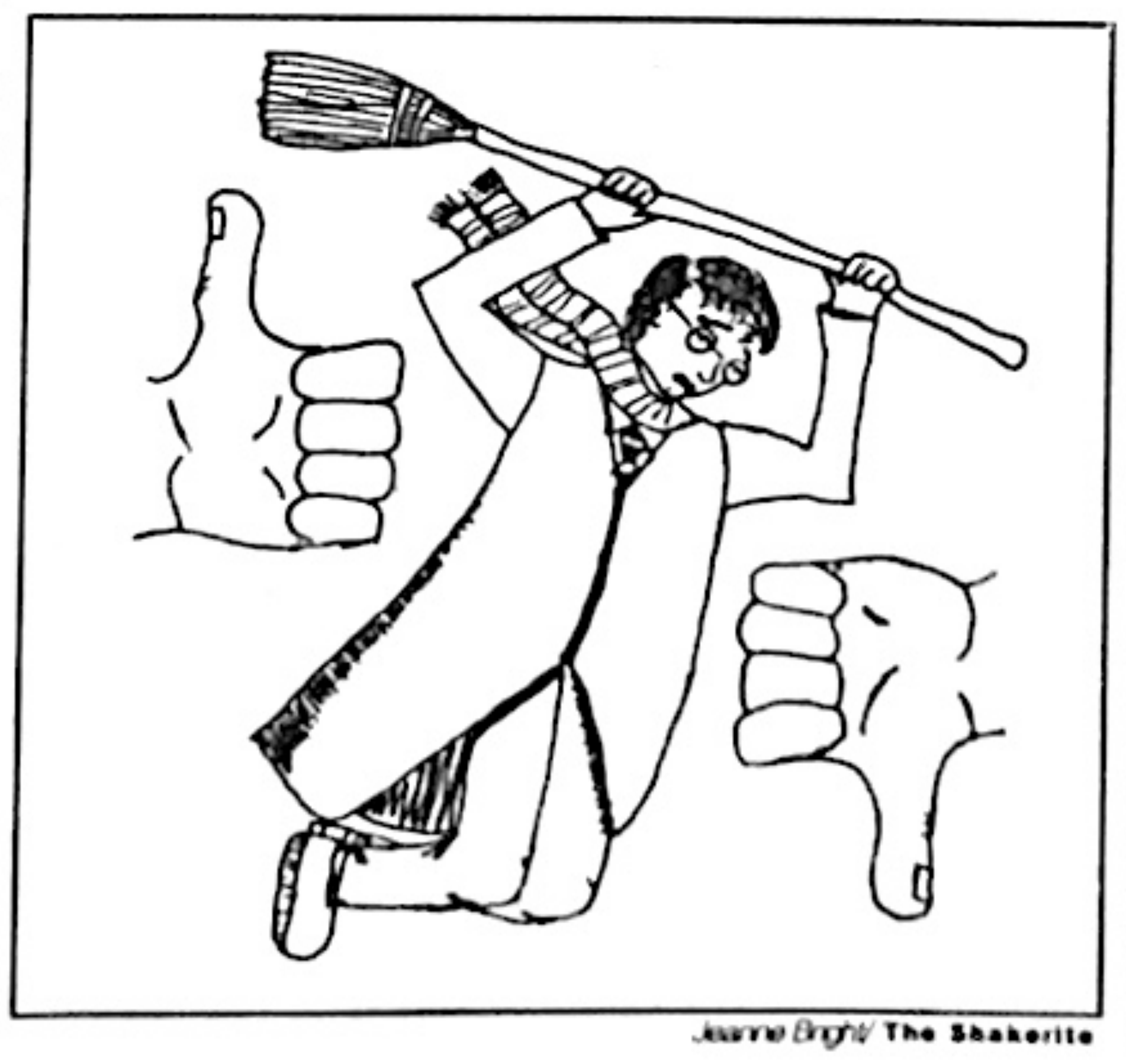
Overall I liked the actors who played Harry and Ron the most because they were so in tune with each other and their characters.

The Quidditch scene was exciting to watch. The movie was intended to be entertaining, and I think it fulfilled that intent.

Although some of the quirkiness and ingenuity of the book was lost in the movie adaptation, the magic was there nevertheless.

It was really nifty to see someone else's interpretation of the book and characters that I loved so much.

From the moment the movie was announced, I knew that it wouldn't be as good as the pictures I had conjured up in my head from the book. Yet, I loved the movie because it captured my attention and drew me headfirst into a magical world.



Jeanne Bright/ The Shakerite

By Andy Cameron and Macall Dash
Staff Reporters

There is no explanation why "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" brought in $93.5 million on the first weekend it was released. Even though the book was remarkable, the movie failed horribly.

> **"Rubeus Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane) was the icing on the cake (of crap)."**

The film messed up on character development. The movie nearly cut out some of its key characters, such as Draco Malfoy, the Dursleys and Professor Snape.

The majority of the actors did a fine job of portraying the characters in the book with the exception of Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe). Harry's character was unimpressive. His friends Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint) were a rare diamond in the rough for child actors.

But Rubeus Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane) was the icing on the cake (of crap). It was annoying how he would always say he wouldn't give up any information and then, stupidly, gave it away.

The worst part is when Hagrid says, "I shouldn't have said that."

The director sacrificed the plot for big budget special effects, like a scene with an ogre, which was pointless and cost a lot of money.

The title of the movie, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" may be a bit misleading, seeing as how the Sorcerer's Stone was not mentioned until the second hour of the movie.

Harry Potter was definitely not worth all the hype and doesn't deserve the large sum of money it has received since the premiere.

• Gospel Choir is in high spirits over successful start of new season

GOSPEL FROM PAGE 1

Sean Best and freshman Bronxton McCaffferty also join the group on drums during performances. The club came together last fall, starting a Gospel Choir for the first time since 1988. Various attempts had been made to start another Choir after the previous one folded 12 years before, but the idea wasn't seriously pursued until October 2000. Priest, a junior at the time, met with McCafferty to discuss their goal of creating a new Gospel Choir.

"The problem," Priest said, "was that when I was a sophomore [then-principal A. Jack Rumbaugh] had approved the idea of a Gospel Choir. When he died, our interim principal didn't okay the club. Finally last year I talked to Brandon... and we asked Ms. Freeman for help. We wrote up a proposal, and went to speak with Mr. Griffith."

Griffith directed the idea to Student Council, who approved the Gospel Choir as an official club. Immediately, disapproving murmurs began to buzz.

"People were saying we weren't going to make it and that they didn't want us to start a Gospel Choir," McElroy said.

Citing separation between church and state, some teachers and students felt that a school gospel choir was unconstitutional. True, religion is a part of the Choir. Priest concluded his announcements to the choir at the meeting with a heartfelt invocation that flowed from his heart to his mouth.

"We know that all things are probable through you, Father God," Priest said. "We need you now more than ever. Father God, work through our hands, work through our voices, work through us now."

"Amen!" chorused the choir members.

Former Gospel Choir singer Kristy Lumpkin, a junior, mentioned that last year one of their sponsors did not feel that this sort of prayer, known as Devotion, had a place in the meetings.

"We had a lot of people there," Lumpkin said. "Some of them were Catholic . . . some of them don't have Devotion in their churches. Plus, [the adviser] said it was taking time away from rehearsals."

Prayer was omitted from last year's practices, and meetings of the Gospel Choir instead began with old business and new business to discuss.

While this satisfied some, many members of the Choir were upset. This year prayer is back at the rehearsals. So far, no one has opposed.

"We're going to sing about the Lord! Is that all right with you all?" said Mt. Sinai Baptist Church's associate pastor, Marcus Martin, one of the choir's new conductors, on Nov. 1.

Echoes of "Yes!" filled the cafeteria. If any member objected, he was holding his thoughts at least for the moment while the spirit of the Choir grew in anticipation.

"Getting a gospel choir and a Gospel Choir Club are two different things," Priest said in response to objections to religion. He argued that as long as no one was being pressured into participating in religion-themed activities, there should be no problem. He added that participation in Gospel Choir is completely voluntary.

"There's the Israeli Culture Club, you've got a Students for God group, so why not a Gospel Choir Club?" Priest said. "It wouldn't be a class, and we wouldn't perform for the school unless they asked us to. As a club, we'd have to be treated equally with the other clubs. Public schools around here all have gospel choirs: Kennedy [in Cleveland], Cleveland Heights, Bedford, and others too. Why not us?"

Accepting this reasoning, Student Council gave the thumbs up to Priest and McCafferty, who set about finding teacher sponsors. These advisers supported the club and supervised the rehearsals, but the students took charge of selecting music and training the choir members.

"I have a history of music in my family," said McElroy, who took over directing the choir in 2000-2001 after the first two student conductors left for various reasons. Last year, the choir learned "Kingdom", a song by McElroy's father, Daniel McElroy, known as Danny Mac on his CDs.

McElroy also conducts her church's youth choir, but despite her conducting experience, she found her position with the Gospel Choir a difficult one to manage. "I don't like to take charge of people my age," she said. "Even though you're trying to get the job done, people think you're trying to be all that."

This year the choir will be conducted by parent volunteers, Martin being one of them. "This year seems brighter already because we've got an adult director," said Priest.

According to Priest, Dr. Robert Schneider who directs and conducts most of the Shaker choirs, might allow the Gospel Choir to rehearse in the choir room after school because of adult supervision. Priest believes that an adult conductor might help the club gain a little more respect.

And if respect is an issue, Martin will certainly not tolerate anything less than complete attention.

Addressing the perspective choir members for one of the first times, he bellowed, "You're all in my church now. There's no talking in my church. There is no chewing gum in my church."

Martin proceeded to instill in the 35 students at the club's second meeting the importance and gravity of their decision to be a part of this group.

"This is a reflection on yourselves," Martin boomed, pacing in front of the keyboard with his eyes on the students.

"Watch your mouths. Be conscious of yourselves. When you're with your friends and your homies, leave all that garbage and cussing outside! Do you want this to be just any old choir or a choir of perfection?"

Thirty-five mouths opened and uttered in unison, "Perfection."

"Then stand up, and let's sing."

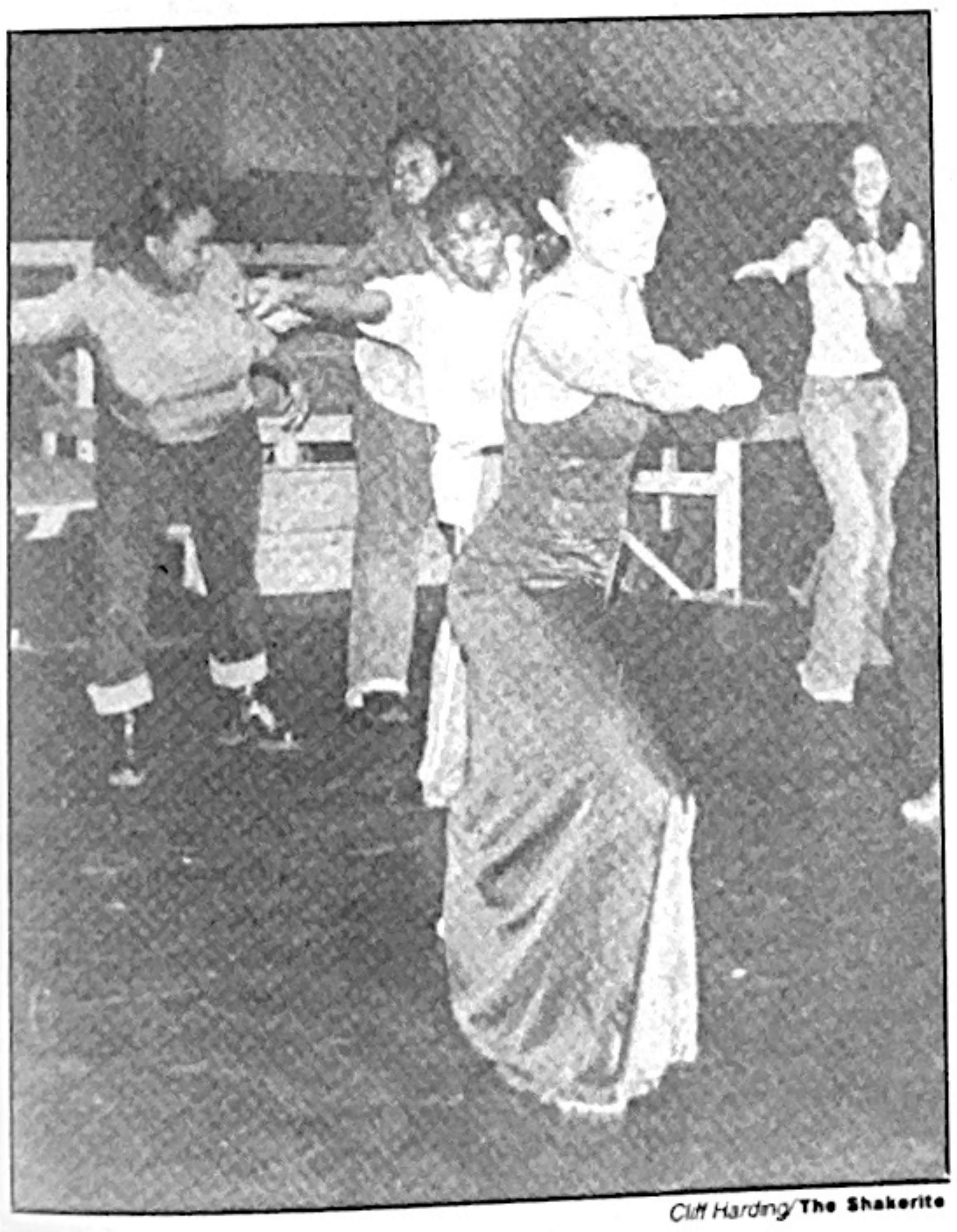
A moment later, accompanied by syncopated, spontaneous clapping, the deafening sound of three dozen inspired students celebrating their culture rang out and filled every corner of the room.

"Just wanna praise You; forever, and ever, and ever; for all You've done, You've done for me . . .," they sang as Martin kept the beat and began singing as well.

Gazing at the excited students around him, Priest said, "This is something that was put in my heart by the Lord. I'm determined not to let it fall like it did in '88. If I have to, I'll come back [after I graduate] just to make sure it keeps going."

> **"There's the Israeli Culture Club, you've got a Students for God group, so why not a Gospel Choir Club?"**
>
> Justin Priest
> senior

MODERN DAY SPIRITUAL



Cliff Harding/The Shakerite

Juniors Gertrude Bakasa, Angelia Martin and Isabelle Tuma perform an interpretive spiritual dance on the stage in the large auditorium Nov. 15. The assembly addressed the history of African American spirituals.

Farewell fair Gallaway

By Liz Campbell
A&E Co-editor

Known throughout the theater hallway for his famous spiky hair, theater teacher Ned Gallaway has become quite popular with his students throughout his six years at the high school.

"Mr. Gallaway has always been a very understanding teacher," said senior playwriting student Nicole Grasso, who has been taking Gallaway's classes for four years. "He is passionate about the theater."

Gallaway announced to his classes on Oct. 1 that he would not be returning to teach at the high school next year.

Gallaway teaches, among other classes, the popular playwriting class. Junior Ashley Malone, one of Gallaway's playwriting students, recalled that Gallaway said he was at the point in his life when it was time to move on and he wanted to try new things.

"We were all pretty disappointed," Malone said.

Gallaway also teaches Junior Ensemble, theater, acting, theater production seminar classes and sometimes helps with Senior Ensemble.

"I think [Gallaway] is a good teacher. I wanted to take more classes from him in the future, but unfortunately I won't be able to," said freshman Anna Sebok, a member of Junior Ensemble.

Gallaway is looking to pursue higher education degrees. "I want to pursue goals I set prior to coming to Shaker," he said.

Gallaway

Gallaway is applying to the University of Virginia, and plans to work towards a doctorate in education.

"I'd like to enter the next stage of my career prior to my daughter beginning her educational career," Gallaway said.

Jordan Rogoff, a playwriting student of Gallaway's, said she was worried that other members of the theater department may be leaving soon, as well. "I'm sad that Mr. Gallaway is leaving because we have such a good theater department right now," the senior said.

Although Gallaway is confident in his decision to leave, the move will be bittersweet for him.

"I'm going to miss teaching my students and especially the kids I would have had a couple more years with," Gallaway said.

the box OFFICE

12/8
Weezer (with Tenacious D)
CSU Convocation Center
7:30 p.m.
$27.50
ticketmaster.com
"They have an original rock sound that no one else has."-Amy Silver, freshman
"I can't wait to see Weezer in such a big venue."-Josh Kirschenbaum, senior
"Jack Black [the lead singer of Tenacious D] is one of the funniest men alive."-Trevor Hackett, junior

•

12/9
Contemporary Youth Orchestra
CSU Waetjen Auditorium
2:00 p.m.
Free (donations encouraged)
"The music is by contemporary composers, and I think that we have a lot of talented people in the orchestra."-Edward Ceaser, junior (member of CYO)

•

12/12
O.A.R.
Agora Theater
8:00 p.m.
$15
ticketmaster.com
"Their rhymes are a raw deal."-Brett Strickland, freshman
"They have great musical talent. They're rockin'."-Mark Forristell, freshman

•

12/15
Redman
Agora Theater
9:00 p.m.
$30
ticketmaster.com
"He's raw, he's not suck-up, and all of his lyrics are original."-Eric Tolbert, senior

•

12/17
Aerosmith
Gund Arena
$30-75
ticketmaster.com
"They're old, but they keep it real."-Chris Tonelli, freshman

• Smokeless tobacco is new choice for teens

FROM TOBACCO, PAGE 16

A senior hockey and lacrosse player claims that he enjoys using chewing tobacco after a hard-fought game. "When everyone's smoking and you can't, Skoal." The player then goes on to claim, "it's there in a pinch."

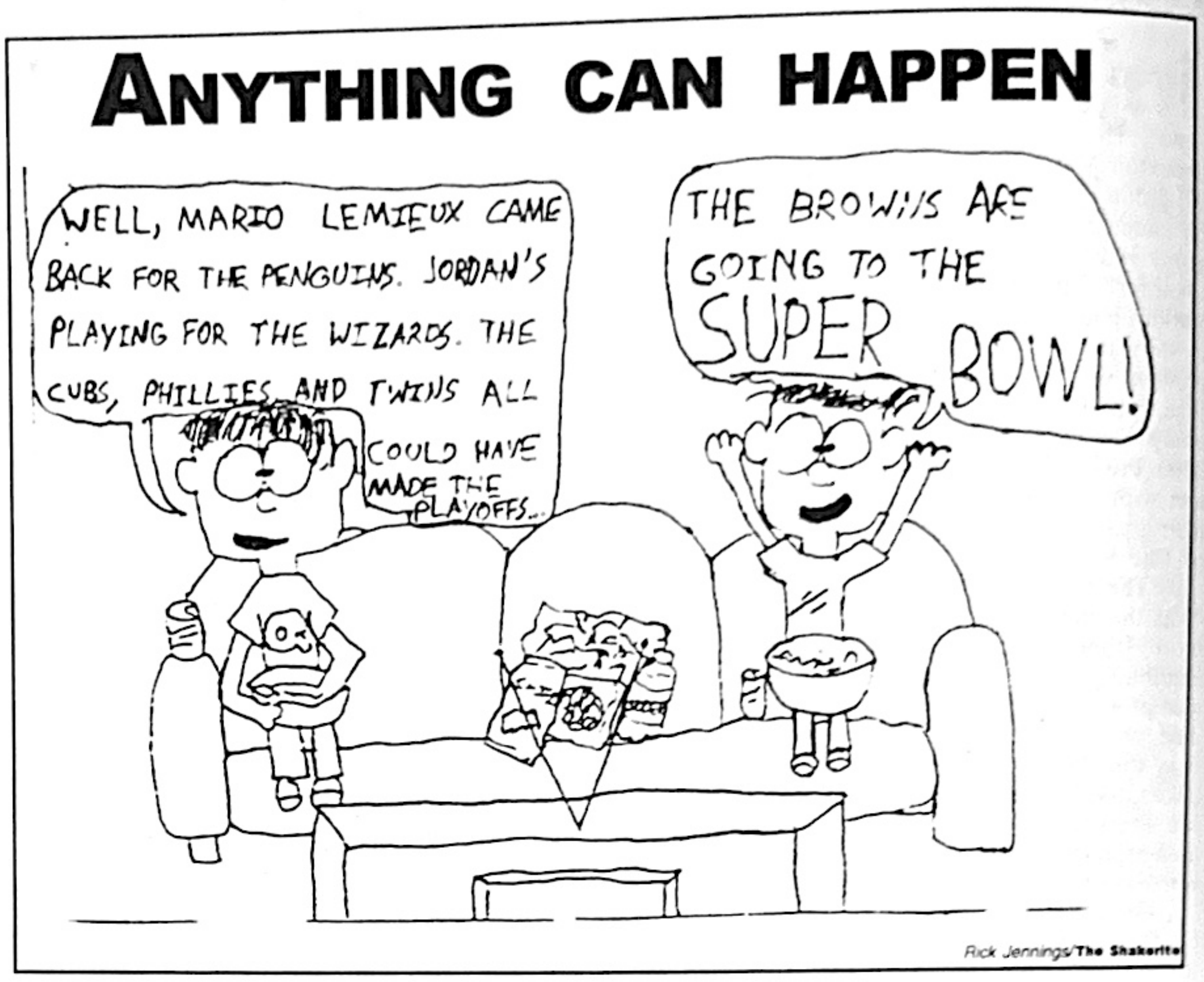
According to Quittobacco.com, chewing tobacco can multiply the chances of oral cancer by up to 50 times. The site lists many of the side effects of chewing tobacco, such as tooth abrasion, lesions, tooth decay, bad breath and gum recession.

Despite these well-documented facts many student athletes still prefer chew to smoking tobacco. "So, it's either lung cancer or mouth cancer," assessed one tennis player as he placed the tobacco in his mouth. "I'll take my chances."

LONG CUT
SKOAL

Lindsay Kocab/The Shakerite

Skoal is a popular brand of chewing tobacco, a growing fad among teenage athletes. Chewing tobacco, also known as dip, is believed to multiply the chance of contracting mouth cancer by up to 50 times. It is also known to cause tooth abrasions, lesions, tooth decay, bad breath and gum recession.


ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN
WELL, MARIO LEMIEUX CAME BACK FOR THE PENGUINS. JORDAN'S PLAYING FOR THE WIZARDS. THE CUBS, PHILLIES AND TWINS ALL COULD HAVE MADE THE PLAYOFFS...
THE BROWNS ARE GOING TO THE SUPER BOWL!

Rick Jennings/The Shakerite

• Welsch supplies unique energy to program

FROM WELSCH, PAGE 16

night, a schedule that "just chips away at you and just wears you down."

"I think he really cares about the team. He puts in so much time," said senior Seth Rosenberg, a distance freestyle swimmer. "He's here every morning and his door is always open. He really knows what he's doing. He's been doing it forever."

Welsch's influence on the lives of his swimmers goes well beyond athletics. He cares about their grades and life in general. Welsch has received even more appreciation from swimmers and heard more about the influence swimming had on their lives after they graduate. He has even been invited to several weddings of former Shaker swimmers.

"I guess I'm amazed by how many swimmers continue to stay in touch after high school and college. I've gotten more appreciation from swimmers after they leave the high school of what influence Shaker swimming has had on them in life," Welsch said.

Kathy Brewster, Rosenberg's mother, said, "He makes it clear to them that if there's something else they need to talk about, he's always willing to talk to them. Anyone who's willing to get there at 5:30 in the morning to coach really cares."

According to Welsch, one of his greatest accomplishments occurred in 1996 when the Shaker men and women were the first team from a public school in 20 years to win the Northeast Ohio District Championship. "So many people thought there was just no way a public school could take out a St. Ignatius or a Hawken," Welsch said.

Coaching both the men and women's teams has more advantages than disadvantages, according to Welsch. It's simply "hard to coach swimming, period," he said. Male and female swimmers are often grouped together in practices and work out together. The only separation begins in sectionals, but not for normal meets.

The key ingredients to a successful swimmer are a tapered, perfected stroke and explosive power. Welsh emphasizes that a proper mix of skills is necessary.

During practices, swimmers perform land workouts as well as sprints and "lactic-acid-type" training to improve explosive power. With high school swimmers, Welsch focuses on keeping good stroke volume and analyzing splits, or sections of swims. He also works with them to develop a "final, tapered, shaved-down swim." Students track their progress with practice test sets, which time different splits.

"We do a variety of stuff, so it doesn't really get boring," Rosenberg said. "We do all types of drills and all types of workouts. It's really exiting and competitive."

Swimmers are motivated by quotes posted around the pool and a "heart chart" on which they record their attendance with heart stamps. Those who swim with the most heart are rewarded with a plaque at the end of the season.

"He knows how to motivate us and he's really hard-working," said Lauren White, a senior who helps coach younger swimmers. "He knows how hard we can work and he makes us work as hard as we can."

"Every swimmer has their own special thing. It's pretty much all an individual-type thing," Welsch said.

Along with "NO EXCUSES", a philosophy of Welsch's is that the swimmers develop a "toughness quality, not just in the pool, but with other things in life" because according to Welsch, "if you can put up with Welsch, you can put up with just about anything."

Expectations run high for winter sports

Compiled By Katherine Ekeberg and Jeff Greenwald
Sports Co-editors

Brian Gamm/The Shakerite

Sophomore Kevin Madison hooks the leg of fellow wrestler Travis Easter while trying to get a pin during preseason practice. "I don't think we'll win a lot of matches as a team, but a couple of guys will do pretty well. This is a rebuilding year for us," Madison said.

inside the NUMBERS

Women's Basketball

Outlook for season
Have a quick team, good at getting up and down court. "I think we can do better than last year," said senior Inshira Grimes.
Biggest game in December
Vs. Cleveland Hts. at 6:00 p.m., Dec. 5 and vs. Euclid at 6:00 p.m., Dec. 15

Women's Swimming

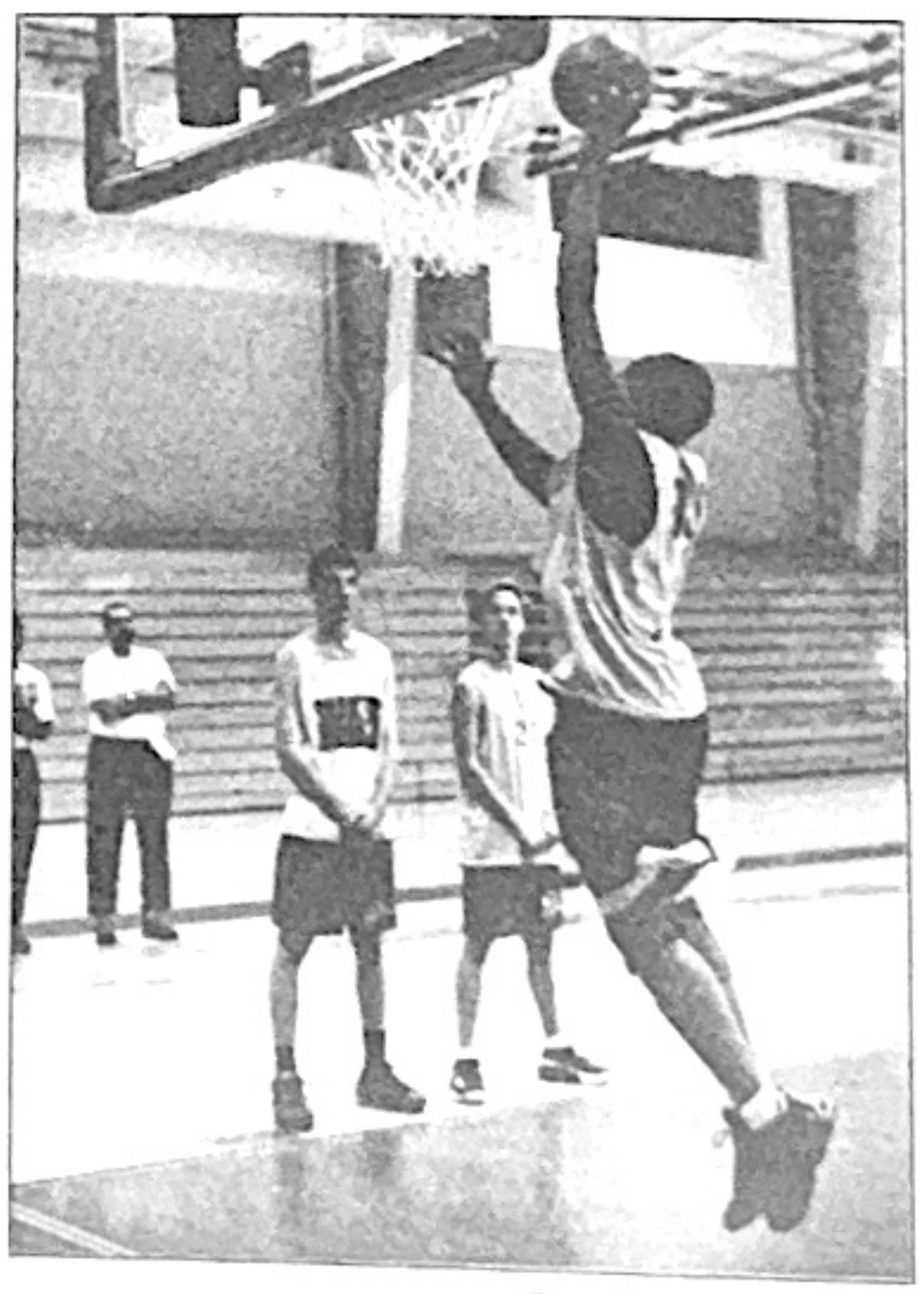
Outlook for season
Should win LEL, but will have tough time going undefeated due to Solon
Biggest meet in December
CSU Invitaional on Dec. 15
"It will be a good marker of where we stand," Ernest Welsch said.

Men's Swimming

Outlook for season
Should win LEL easily. Will have tough time getting anyone to states. May be first time in 11 years both men's and women's swim teams have a loss in the same season.
Biggest meet in December
Solon Relays at noon, Dec. 8

Men's Basketball

Outlook for season
Have been ranked in top 10 in state by many magazines. "If we can come together and play as a team we will be very good," Bob Wonson said.
Biggest game in December
At Villa Angela/ St. Joseph at 6 p.m., Dec. 8
Have tiled courts and odd lighting system, which will be difficult for team to play on.



Brian Gamm/The Shakerite

Senior Darrel White bangs a shot off of the glass during a lay-up drill at basketball practice. Teammates Daniel Stephenson, left, and Sean Brakey wait outside of the key.

Hockey

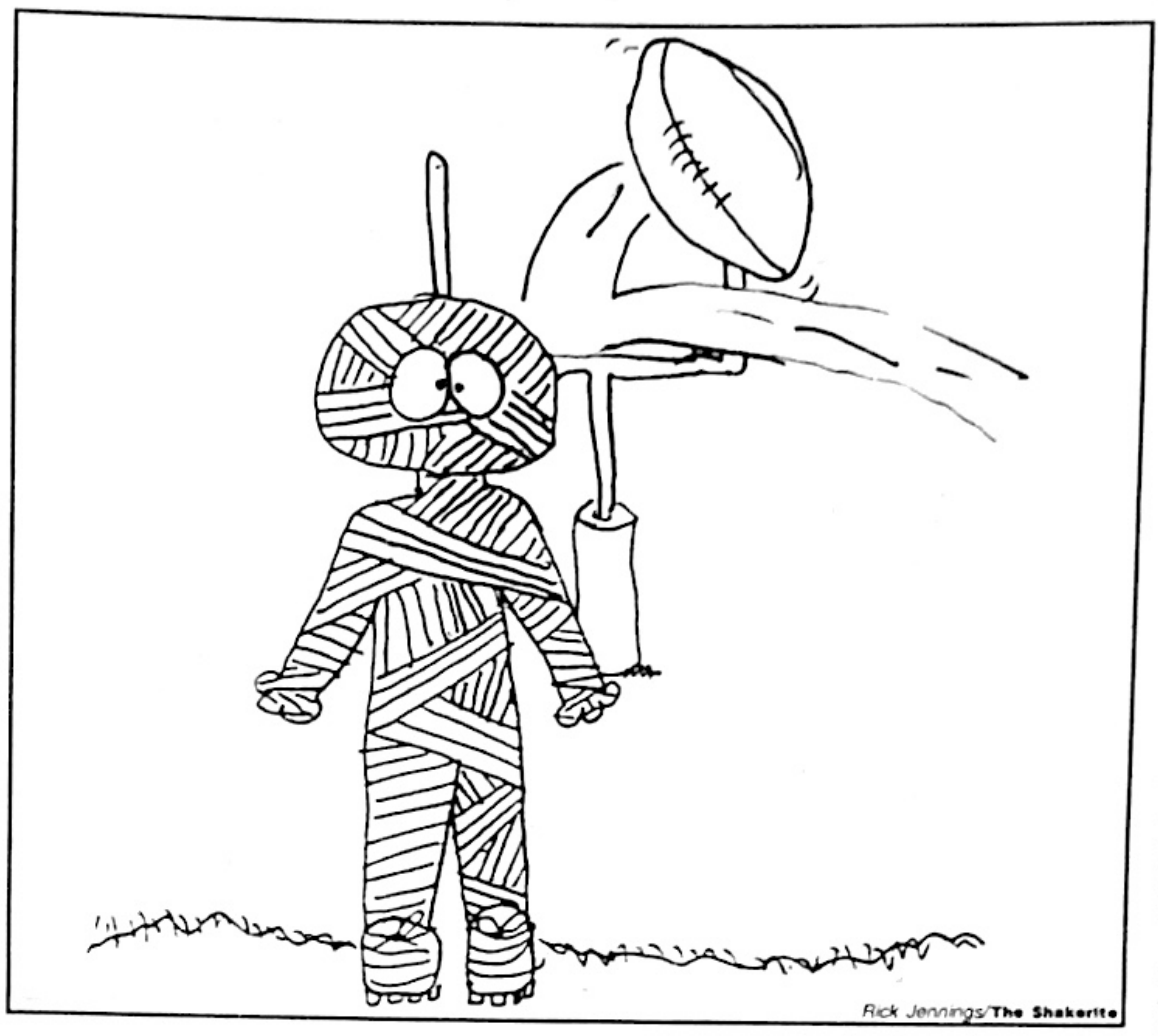
Outlook for season
"I'm very optimistic. We have a good nucleus of returning players and a number of good freshman," Mike Bartley said
Biggest game in December
Versus University at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 7

Wrestling

Outlook for season
"I think we'll have some tough competition," Charlie Morgan said. We have an enthusiastic and experienced team.
Biggest meet in December
At Brecksville Dec. 28-29. Over 44 teams will compete

Injuries are no obstacle for Shaker sports

By Alex Hitchens
Staff Reporter



Rick Jennings/The Shakerite

It's an hour before game time and you sprained your ankle in warm-ups. Now you must contemplate whether to play through it or sit this one out.

Athletic injuries are every athlete's nightmare because they restrict freedom to participate in the sports they love. But some athletes press on despite the pain. Near the Woodbury swimming pool there is sign that reads "no pain, no gain." For many Shaker athletes, that is a motto to abide by dearly.

Playing with pain is not easy. Just ask senior football player Robert Price, who played the entire football season with injuries.

"I'll admit it's kind of painful while I play. I tend to block it out most of the time, but it's real easy to let it get to you," said Price, an all LEL-caliber athlete who is bound for Joe Paterno's Penn State Nittany Lions. But Price sees injuries as part of competition. "It's just another aspect of the sport."

Although playing with pain is often bearable and admired by others, participating while under duress can be fatal. The deaths of Minnesota Viking's Korey Stringer and Northwestern's Rasheedi Wheeler are prime examples. Both had extreme pain, believed they could press through it and died as a result.

Soccer player Dylan Fallon believes that if you are injured, you shouldn't put your body on the line. "Nobody will be hurt if you just sit one out," the junior said. "Sometimes if you play injured, you might hurt your team more, than if you just sat out."

Swimmer Jason Blane's view is different. "If your team really needed you to perform, you should be willing to give it a shot. Sometimes you just need to suck it up," the junior said.

> **"If your team really needed you to perform, you should be willing to give it a shot. Sometimes you just need to suck it up."**
> Jason Blane
> junior

Career-ending injuries are common among those who play when hurt. Even the heroic persona of a boxer is susceptible to damage. Muhammad Ali now suffers from taking too many blows to the head as a young boxer.

"If I was in the pros and my life was in danger because I continuously played injured, I'd quit," junior football player Arthur Boyd said. "I'd have enough money to live the rest of my life peacefully."

Playing injured isn't just dangerous in football. "Baseball's no laughing joke when it comes to playing with pain," junior Matt Saddler said. Baseball is not seen as a contact sport, but players are constantly hit with pitches, home plate collisions or play with pulled hamstrings. "Collisions at home plate are as bad as hard hitting tackles in football," Saddler said.

• Hockey players star in women's competition

FROM HOCKEY, PAGE 1

began the sport. She continued in both hockey and figure skating until eighth grade.

In eighth grade, Webb quit her boys hockey team and started playing for the Flames. "It [boys hockey] got to be too much. I was doing a lot of other activities," Webb said.

Elliott also got her start in hockey by aspiring to her brother's success. She has played hockey for nine years.

Amanda Webb

She played with Shaker through eighth grade and joined the Flames during her freshman season. Elliott tried out for the Shaker men's team and made junior varsity. However she decided to go to an all-girls team to increase her college opportunities. Flames Coach Clayton Erickson says that by playing for the Flames, Elliott and Webb have a chance to be seen by college scouts, an opportunity that he says would *never happen if they played on teams with boys.*

The differences between girls' hockey and boys' hockey are large. There is no checking allowed in women's hockey, and team spirit is unique.

"You feel like you're part of the team [with girls]. You get to change with the team. With boys, it's a different atmosphere," Elliott said. Webb points out that the physical size differences can be a factor.

> **"You feel like you're part of the team [with girls]. You get to change with the team. With boys, it's a different atmosphere."**
> Ann Elliott
> junior

Webb also states that as she got older, she saw more discrimination when playing boys hockey. "Around 12 or 13, there were more comments," Webb said. Comments from parents about having a girl on the team also increased. Her team also had problems when playing boys teams. "For spring season my girls team used to play in a boys league. One time we had a coach tell his players to check us and injure us," Webb said.

With the Flames, Elliott plays *goalie, a position she has held since third grade.*

"When I was a mite my team didn't have a goalie, so I tried it out and have been playing it ever since," Elliott said.

Last season she saved 94 percent of shots on goals and had a 1.38 goals against average in 20 games. Her record was 8-7-1, and she allowed 25 goals total.

Webb plays most games at defense, but, "if coach needs me to play forward, I'll play forward," Webb said.

Erickson considers Webb a very good competitor. He says that she is a "great rushing defensemen."

Erickson is also positive about Elliott. He says she, too, is very competitive and never looks beyond herself when the other team scores.

Both women hope to play in college, with Webb looking at Colgate, Yale, Harvard and Cornell and Elliott considering Boston College, Dartmouth and Brown.

Courtesy of Rob Reiners/ Digital Sportshots

Ann Elliott, a goalie who plays for the Cleveland flames, a womens hockey team, lunges to save a puck heading toward the top right corner.

• Pregame rituals give athletes focus and confidence

FROM RITUALS, PAGE 16

the Ohio Center for Sport Psychology, Jack J. Lesyk, PhD, sports superstitions aren't always positive. "Superstitions involving materials are bad because if an athlete looses that object their mind set can turn sour," Lesyk said.

Instead of relying on a superstitious object, Lesyk suggests participating in a pre-performance routine. "We recommend pre-performance routines as an alternative to superstitions. These are sets of common routines that allow the athlete to be in a comfortable mind set before their event," Lesyk said. "Using the pre-performance routine, an athlete can never be disappointed."

"I don't use materials for my superstitions," said soccer and basketball player Brittany Clair. "For basketball, I just do the regular team warm up to get ready for the game. It's like our regular routine," the sophomore said.

From the disgusting to the spiritual, athlete's superstitions are wild.

Giertz bought Chinese chi pills, ancient pills containing powders which are supposed to help one's mind set, that were filled with a supposedly powerful powder.

"I dumped the powder into a glass of water and placed my swimming goggles in there. I rinsed my goggles all around in the water to get a good karma for the goggles and myself. Then I won the race," Giertz added.

Body parts are also frequent sources for superstitions.

"When I'm out there playing, I have a set blinking pattern," said sophomore football player Brian Mackley.

"I blink 10 times real quick before every play to get myself ready. If I don't blink, I don't feel ready to play up to my ability," Mackley said.

Even gum can be a source of a superstition.

"At the same spot on the 18-yard box, I chew a piece of Spearmint gum before each game," Katherine Lesueur said. "Then I take the gum, put it in the ground and bury it with only my left cleat," she added.

"My superstitions, no matter how weird, really help me out," McWilliams said. "I couldn't play without them."

SPORTS

Winter Sports Preview

Check out how far teams think they will go and key matchups in December.

Page 15

By Jeff Greenwald
Sports Co-editor

Baseball must regain trust of fans

There seems to be a little too much of the American capitalistic spirit in America's favorite pastime.

The 2001 World Series will be remembered forever. Luis Gonzalez singled in the game-winning run in the bottom of the ninth during game seven of the World Series. Yet, only 48 hours after the final run crossed home plate at Bank One Ballpark in Arizona, commissioner Bud Selig announced that Major League Baseball would contract two franchises before the start of the 2002 season.

In response to Selig's announcement, the MLB player's association took the matter to the courts, claiming that the owners were violating anti-trust laws. Now it looks as if baseball has another work stoppage in store for its fans.

This year's World Series brought a nation together following a horrific tragedy. However, after baseball had shown its best to an American public that was regaining faith in its favorite sport, it immediately turned around and showed its worst, trying to increase profits by starting two more teams.

The industry has tried to cater to the average fan for years, but recently strikes, lockouts and players' attempts to scrounge for every last dollar on the free agent market have alienated many of baseball's diehard fans. The removal of two franchises would only further the rift between the MLB and its audience.

Baseball is a business, but not a very noble one. After all, what business pays grown men millions of dollars to play a game meant for children? These men should be thankful they have the opportunity and were given the talent to take part in such a business. Instead of worrying about money, they need to concentrate on the people they put the show on for - the fans.

The average baseball salary is more than 40 times that of the average American's. If players cannot be content with that then they do not understand the nature of a game. Longtime fans spend hard-earned money to go to see these amazing men play a game.

The least the players and owners can do is not worry about making or losing a few more dollars. They need to worry about keeping the fans who pay their salaries. The only way they will continue to do that is if they begin to think of what they do as a game, not as an industry.

Choice to chew is a dangerous one

By Rob Rains
Opinion Co-editor

You head back to the locker room after winning a big game against Cleveland Heights. The entire team is pumped, the crowd was hyped up and it is time to mellow out. "Hey guys, save your cups for later," a teammate says. It's time to dip.

Chewing tobacco has made its presence well known at the high school in the last several years. Various varsity athletes, especially hockey, lacrosse and baseball players admit to partaking in the habit, defending their actions by saying it's just "good clean fun."

Athletes prefer "chew" to cigarettes because it is considered to be safer, in terms of maintaining cardiovascular endurance.

"You can't run up and down the field if you are huffing and puffing," exclaims one junior who plays both lacrosse and soccer. "This is my alternative to cigarettes."

But not all athletes find "dipping" or "packing" a good use of time. "A lot of my teammates pack," claims junior hockey player Ari Marcellino. "It doesn't make them any better at hockey."

Chewing tobacco tends to come in flavors, such as cherry or wintergreen. It is sold for approximately $4 a pack at most gas stations.

Despite the widespread sentiments, chewing tobacco does not come without its own burdens. Most chewing tobaccos contain fiberglass as well as nicotine, and like cigarettes, are easily addictive.

People who chew tobacco tend to always carry a cup or other apparatus to spit into, because the saliva accumulated from chewing tobacco cannot be swallowed safely.

High school athletes are not the only ones who have embraced chewing tobacco. Many professionals also like to "throw in a lipper" when they are warming up. A recent issue of "Sports Illustrated" shows a large photograph of Barry Bonds in his rookie season in Pittsburgh. Much like now, Bonds is belting a homerun. The photograph clearly shows a circular bulge in his back pocket. Bonds is dipping? He wouldn't be the only guy.

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Top of the Class

Ernest Welsch requires mental toughness from swimmers and himself

By Meagan Steiner
Staff Reporter

A sign painted in large red letters on a wall of the Woodbury pool reads, "NO EXCUSES."

This simple phrase represents Ernest Welsch's philosophy on coaching.

"When kids start whining, he'll point up there and they'll shut up right away," said Kevin Rytel, an assistant coach for the high school swim team. "He's the one who had the sign put up."

Rytel came from Lakewood to Shaker in June specifically to work with Welsch. "He's a great guy, well-respected in the area. I came just so I could basically learn under him and see what he does to make his kids perform so well. All these other coaches wanna know what's his secret."

Welsch coaches the high school swim teams and the Shaker Sharks, a swimming program for students not yet in high school. After teaching physical education at Shaker for two years, he established and coached the women's high school swim team in 1982 and took over the men's team in 1989. In 1988, he initiated the Shaker Sharks, which now has more than 300 members.

Welsch has been voted Northeast Ohio District Men's or Women's Coach of the Year 10 out of the last 15 years. He was elected Women's High School State Coach of the Year in 1995 and Men's High School State Coach of the Year in 1998.

The men's team has 98 consecutive wins and 11 consecutive Lake Erie League championships. The women's record is equally impressive with 92 consecutive wins and 15 successive LEL championships.

Swimming coach Ernest Welsch stands poolside observing practice. Welsch coaches both the high school swim team and the Shaker Sharks, a swim team for students not yet in high school. "I think he really cares about the team. He puts in so much time," said senior Seth Rosenberg, a distance freestyle swimmer.

Courtesy of Seth Rosenberg

"He's a fine coach. The kids seem to respond to him well and he's very knowledgeable and they respect him a great deal. He prepared them well before freshman year," said Jerry Holtrey, swimming coach for Hawken.

Welsch attributes his success to perseverance, hard work and long hours he has dedicated to coaching. Welsch said swimming is a highly competitive sport in Ohio and hard work is necessary. Welsch arrives at the pool at 5:30 a.m. and leaves at about 6:30 at

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Superstitions give extra boost to concentration

Courtesy of Jeff Giertz

Senior swimmer Jeff Giertz dips his goggles into water that has been mixed with Chinese chi pill powder in order to achieve good karma before games.

By David Morgenstern
Staff Reporter

"Some of us pee off the deck," said senior swimmer Jeff Giertz.

Is Giertz committing a felony or acting under the influence?

No. He's performing one of his superstitions to get ready to compete in an intense high school swim meet.

For Shaker athletes, sports are serious. Year-round practice requires the dedication and desire to become the best athlete they can be.

Instead of using muscle enhancers or steroids, many athletes rely on their favorite superstition for that extra edge in their sporting event.

"I have to do whatever it takes for me to get ready. My superstitions are basic rituals. And if I don't do them, I don't feel ready to compete," said sophomore football and baseball player Arden McWilliams.

Termed rituals or superstitions, preparations athletes take before athletic events are serious, although often absurd. To many, superstitions are almost as important as the actual training for the sport.

Sports are ripe with superstitions. "My first thought about superstitions is, and has always been witches. But now I realize that there aren't that many witches anymore. So after I think about witches, I think about like school, sports and stuff," freshman Mark Woodson said.

For many athletes, superstitions are not premeditated, but developed by coincidences.

"On the field, I rode my stick around like it was a pony. It started out as a joke. But then we started to win when I did that, so every game I would ride around on my stick," said senior field hockey player Claire Dietrich.

Dietrich is a standout field hockey and lacrosse player who credits her superstitions with her success. "They allow me to relax and play to my full potential," Dietrich added.

According to the Director of

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